FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Soviet Union

FBIS-SOV-88-103
Friday
27 May 1988

Daily Report
Soviet Union

FBIS-SOV-88-103 CONTENTS *27 May 1988*

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

Karpov Views U.S. 'Debts' on START Issue 1
News Conference on Soviet Tour of Porton Down 1
Disarmament Role of Glasnost Viewed *[Savelyev in SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 26 May]* 2

WORLDWIDE ISSUES

Glazunov Views NATO Defense Ministers Meeting 4
  Levin Criticizes Session 4
Reagan, Gorbachev Awarded 'Golden Minute' Prize 5
Kashlev Notes Progress at Vienna Talks 5
Peace Committee Official Comments on Meeting 5
Chaldymov Outlines Framework for Security Debate *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 26 May]* 6

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

United States & Canada

Further Reportage on Reagan Stopover in Finland 9
  Helsinki Prepares for Visit *[Kuznetsov in PRAVDA 26 May]* 9
  Reagan on Northern Seas 9
News Conference Views Moscow Summit Topics *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 27 May]* 9
  Petrovskiy Comments Cited 10
  Nuclear, Chemical Weapon Issues 12
  Strategic Arms Reduction 12
Briefing on Disarmament, Security-87 'Yearbook' 13
  Primakov Notes Goals 13
  Primakov on Regional Issues 13
  Falin on Verification 13
  Batenin on Vienna Talks 14
Paper Ponders Course of Relations With U.S.
  [Kuznetsov in SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA 26 May] 14
U.S. Senate Clears Way for INF Pact Approval 16
Kornilov on Discussion of Humanitarian Issues 16
Ex-Nazis Helped Shape U.S. Policy on USSR *[Kikilo in SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 25 May]* 17
Decision on Alleged War Criminal Reported *[PRAVDA 25 May]* 17
U.S. House of Representatives Endorses Aid Bill 17
  Aid to Contras Reported 18
VOA Glasnost Expectations Viewed *[Vasilyev in PRAVDA 25 May]* 18
Comparison of Korionov Article on Summit 18

China

Prospects for Development of Ties 'Bright' *[Alekseyev]* 19
Leningrad Factory Fulfills Turbine Order 19

Northeast Asia

Japanese Communist Party Plenum Session Opens 20
Creation of Soviet-Japanese Enterprises Noted *[IZVESTIYA 26 May]* 20
Former Prime Minister on Japan-USSR Relations 20
Results of Soviet-Japanese Poll on Relations *[(Bondarikov)]* 21
U.S. Nuclear Clean-Up Crews Present in Japan *[Andrianov]* 21
DPRK Foreign Minister Stops Enroute to Cuba 22

Southeast Asia & Pacific

SRV Reportedly To Withdraw Troops From Cambodia 22
  To Be Completed in 1990 22
  Communique Issued 22
  Rogachev Comments on Decision 23
Further Reportage on Thai Prime Minister's Visit 24
  Tours Kiev 18 May *[Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY 19 May]* 24
  Visits Kiev Supreme Soviet *[Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY 20 May]* 24
  Meets With Ukrainian Officials *[Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY 20 May]* 24
  Departs Kiev 20 May *[Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY 21 May]* 25
  Commentary on Visit Results 25

Near East & South Asia

Moscow-Kabul Telebridge Interviews Najibullah *[Zolotarevskiy, Shurygin, Bovin]* 26
Commanders Discuss Forces in Afghanistan 29
  Gromov Interview *[Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO 20 May]* 29
  Lobov on Pullout *[MOSCOW NEWS No 20]* 30
Afghan Revolutionary Council Holds Final Session 31
Districts Discuss Afghan Accord Implementation 32
Arab Summit Preview Cites Goals, Obstacles *[IZVESTIYA 25 May]* 32
Naval Ships To Visit Algiers 30 May-3 Jun 33
Naj' Hammadi Aluminum Plant Prospects Viewed *[SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA 24 May]* 33

East Europe

Further on Jaruzelski Remarks to Workers *[PRAVDA 26 May]* 33
Polish Unions View Changes in Prices, Incomes *[TRUD 25 May]* 34
Katyn Monument to Polish Officers Refurbished *[PRAVDA 25 May]* 34
  Army Paper Notes Project *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 27 May]* 34
Maslyukov, CSSR Counterpart Discuss Planning *[Prague CTK]* 35
SFRY Spokesman Cited on Moscow Summit 35
Comparison of SFRY Journal on Gorbachev Visit *[PRAVDA 25 May]* 35

West Europe

FRG Spokesman Comments on Moscow Summit 35
FRG Weekly 'Exults' Over Anti-Airstrip Weapon *[IZVESTIYA 25 May]* 35
FRG Tourists To Reach Olympics by Soviet Rail 36
Italian Communist Leader Natta Interviewed *[PRAVDA 16 May]* 36
Ryzhkov Meets With President of Volvo *[PRAVDA 26 May]* 37
Gromyko Greets Finnish 'Worker Culture Festival' *[PRAVDA 23 May]* 37

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political & Social

PRAVDA Carries Central Committee Theses *[27 May]* 39
Further on Supreme Soviet Session Activities 49
  Cooperative Law Adopted 49
  Terebilov Addresses Meeting *[PRAVDA 27 May]* 52
  New Prosecutor General Named 57
  Session Ends 57
Shcherbitskiy Speaks in Kiev on Restructuring *[Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY 15 May]* 58

Economic

Jan-Apr Industrial Performance Figures Reported *[EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA No 21]* 66
Kashyrskiy Advocates Natural Gas Alternatives *[PRAVDA 24 May]* 71
Technical Servicing Consortium Created *[SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA 24 May]* 71

Agricultural

Nikonov Visits Yaroslavl Oblast Farms 72
Criticizes Oblast 72
Paper Reports Jan-Apr Livestock Figures *[EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA No 21]* 72

Scientific

'Molniya-3' Communications Satellite Launched 74
'Mir' Cosmonauts' Conduct 'Medical Checkup' 74

Military

Lizichev Addresses Northern Forces Meeting *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 26 May]* 75

Karpov Views U.S. 'Debts' on START Issue

LD2705075288 Moscow TASS in English 0744 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Moscow May 27 TASS—By TASS diplomatic correspondent Vadim Biryukov:

The United States has effectively given the Soviet side to understand that it will not be ready to sign a START (Strategic Arms Reduction Talks) treaty during the Moscow summit, a ranking Soviet diplomat said today.

Viktor Karpov, chief of the Foreign Ministry's Arms Control and Disarmament Directorate, was speaking in a TASS interview.

"If this is so, we make a note of this," he said.

"But I think that after the Moscow meeting it will be essential to give precise instructions to the delegations from the USSR and the U.S. in Geneva to keep working intensely to hammer out the issues remaining in the problem of strategic offensive arms as soon as possible."

For decisive progress to be achieved in drafting a treaty for halving these weapons, while preserving the ABM Treaty, as signed in 1972, it is needed that the American side, Karpov said, pay off its "debts," that is, go its part of the way towards the agreement more quickly.

One such "debt," he explained, was abiding by the Washington understanding of December 10, 1987, on compliance with the ABM Treaty.

"The Soviet side has received more than one assurance from Washington that they are prepared to fulfil this condition, but things haven't moved any further.

"As soon as an issue reached the American delegation in Geneva, it gets stuck there," Karpov continued.

He pointed to the lack of a constructive posture on sea-launched cruise missiles as another American "debt."

It has been agreed at the Washington summit that both sides will come to terms on limits to be put on long-range sea-launched nuclear-tipped cruise missile deployments and specific Soviet proposals on the issue have been made at the same time.

Those included a wide range of measures such as remote detection of nuclear weapons on ships and on-site inspections that would cover the whole life of long-range sea-launched cruises—from their production and outfitting with nuclear warheads to their siting on ships.

"We believe that no bans and restrictions may be allowed when it comes to verification concerning this kind of missiles, but the United States is not prepared for such an extensive verification system.

"There has [as received] been no specific proposals coming from them, only excuses," Karpov said.

Speaking of air-borne cruises, he said the U.S. "debt" there was in that in Washington they were not going to abandon their marked unilateral advantage in heavy bombers.

In the meantime, arming an air-borne cruise missile with a nuclear warhead is so simple that even Americans themselves admit, according to Karpov, that the situation in this field is unstable.

"There are also other 'debts,' or problems in which the absence of a constructive U.S. position prevents progress to a draft START treaty.

"But one would like to hope that the Moscow summit will make it possible to bring us as close as possible to completing the draft of this treaty which will definitely constitute a weighty contribution to enhancing international security," Karpov said.

News Conference on Soviet Tour of Porton Down

LD2705081288 Moscow TASS In English 0735 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Porton Down May 27 TASS—The visit by a group of Soviet experts to the British military chemical research centre became the first step in building confidence between the two countries, the confidence which is essential for success of the current talks in Geneva on complete and final elimination of chemical weapons.

This was how representatives of the Soviet Union and Britain evaluated the results of the Soviet specialists' trip to Britain. They spoke at a joint press conference here on Thursday.

Yuriy Nazarkin, the leader of the Soviet group of experts, the head of the USSR delegation at the Geneva conference on disarmament, and Graham Pearson, director of the Porton Down centre, spoke of the results of the familiarization of Soviet specialists with the British military chemical facility, and shared their impressions of meetings and discussions between the representatives of the two countries.

Journalists' questions were also answered by Lieutenant General Anatoliy Kuntsevich, deputy commander of chemical troops of the USSR, and Tessa Solesby, the head of the British delegation at the Geneva conference on disarmament.

Mr Pearson pointed out that the British side did its best for the Soviet experts' visit to be productive and substantive as much as possible. Over the three days they had an opportunity to tour the chemical defence facility and the applied microbiological research centre, to discuss with British colleagues matters connected with the production, storing and testing of chemical weapons, and to see in operation the means for the protection from, chemical decontamination, detection and destruction of chemical weapons.

The director of the British centre emphasized that the first important joint step was made towards building confidence. The second one would be made at Shikhany where British specialists are to go in the end of June.

Yuriy Nazarkin in his speech thanked the British side for good conditions created and for openness during the Soviet experts' familiarization with the facility at Porton Down, which, he said, promoted the implementation of the scheduled programme and the accomplishment of the main task which was set prior to the visit: to build confidence.

"I want to point out," he said, "that discussions during the visit were held, first of all, with a view to finding a solution to those issues which remain unresolved at the talks in Geneva. When discussuing various technical aspects we sought primarily to visualize ways which could be used at the talks for the development of a system of control over the destruction of chemical weapons."

Touching upon the very course of the conduct of the Geneva talks on concluding a convention on complete and general ban and on the elimination of chemical weapons, the leader of the Soviet delegation pointed out that their success depended on how quickly the remaining problems could be resolved.

"Unfortunately, there arise factors which have an adverse effect on the course of the talks. This applies, first of all, to the intention of some countries to develop chemical weapons or to upgrade them through producing a new generation of such weapons. I mean binary ones. Such steps are movement in the opposite direction. Therefore we particularly appreciate the positive experience which our two countries gain in the cause of banning chemical weapons," Yuriy Nazarkin said.

"Until recently it was difficult to imagine that the gate of the Porton Down facility would be open for Soviet experts, and that of the Shikhany one for Western experts. I think it is precisely through these open gates that the way which may bring us to a world without chemical weapons, to a world without any weapons of mass destruction lies," Yuriy Nazarkin said in conclusion.

At the same time, during speeches and answers to the questions posed by journalists, representatives of the two countries revealed differing points of views on the question of binary chemical weapons and on approaches to ways and means for concluding at an earliest date a convention on a ban on and elimination of this type of weapons. Soviet representatives condemned U.S. plans for the production of the new generation of chemical weapons, pointing out that they undermined efforts aimed at reaching agreement on the elimination of these weapons of mass destruction and at establishing a spirit of trust between countries.

Disarmament Role of Glasnost Viewed

PM2705091588 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 26 May 88 First Edition p 3

[A. Savelyev article: "The ABM Treaty and the Problem of Trust. Restructuring and Glasnost Are Removing the 'Trump Cards' of the Enemies of Disarmament"]

[Text] In Soviet-U.S. relations May is a month full of important dates. For instance, on 26 May 1972 the unlimited-duration ABM Treaty was signed in Moscow. On 28 May 1976 the Soviet-U.S. treaty on underground nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes and the protocol to the treaty were signed in Moscow and Washington. This agreement, unlike the first, has still not come into force, although in practice it is observed by both sides.

We have still not lost hope of hearing this month that the U.S. Senate has ratified the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, and on 29 May President R. Reagan arrives in Moscow on an official visit, which will undoubtedly be an important event in the history of relations between our countries and world politics as a whole. May could be crowned by the signing of a Soviet-U.S. treaty on 50-percent reductions in strategic offensive weapons. But it will clearly take some more time to work out this document and it will not be ready during the visit to the USSR by the head of the U.S. Administration. Consequently, May will most probably have to "pass on" the date for the signing to another month.

The enumeration of these events—both those of the past and those still to come—evokes dual feelings. On the one hand, one recognizes that over the past few years our countries' leaders have traveled a long way toward curbing the arms race. On the other hand, it is becoming clear just how much still needs to be accomplished in order to completely rid mankind of the threat of universal destruction. This worry is increasing in connection with the fact that the effectiveness of previously concluded treaties is now being questioned, accusations are made by both sides about violations, and attempts to exert strong-arm pressure on the USSR during arms limitation talks continue. One of the main targets of the "attacks" undertaken by the enemies of detente has been the only Soviet-U.S. agreement in this area that currently has actual legal force—the ABM Treaty.

The Soviet mass media have devoted great attention to this problem. SDI and the U.S. Administration's plans to transfer the arms race to space have been comprehensively analyzed and criticized, and an exhaustive analysis of the ABM Treaty has been made from the standpoint of its importance in curbing the arms race, its stabilizing influence on the strategic balance, and the need to strengthen its system [rezhim]. The problem of observing the treaty in the form in which it was signed and of not withdrawing from it for an agreed period was one of the central points in the talks between the USSR and the United States on 50-percent cuts in strategic offensive weapons.

At the same time our criticism, while exposing the military preparations of the United States and NATO, often loses sight of the fact that a considerable proportion of the Western public sincerely believes that the stepping up of military programs is vitally necessary to eliminate the "Soviet threat." This is promoted enormously by the numerous projects conducted in the United States, whose subject is the comparative analysis of U.S. and Soviet military programs. There are dozens of scientific institutions—universities, institutes, and associations—in the United States which, along with government organizations, carry out a great deal of work in this area.

Of course, these research projects, not to mention their conclusions, are biased and rife with exaggeration. Nonetheless, in a whole string of cases they have played what was virtually the decisive role in the approval of certain military programs, the allocation of appropriations for military purposes, and the creation of a distorted view of the USSR among the Western public.

Unfortunately, the lack of cogent and convincing articles in our press even on questions that are not purely military-related, has often had far more serious consequences than the loss of the propaganda duel with our opponents. It can be stated that in certain cases this has seriously damaged the disarmament process and played into the hands of those who oppose improvements in Soviet-U.S. relations. This is borne out by the campaign launched in the United States about the construction of the Krasnoyarsk Radar.

Exploiting the fact that the USSR had not declared the installation operational, right-wing U.S. circles accused our country of directly violating the ABM Treaty, which prohibits the construction of ABM radar stations in the interior [v glubine] of a country's territory. The subsequent Soviet statements, according to which the said radar station was intended for the observation and tracking of objects in space—which is permitted under the ABM Treaty—clearly failed to have the required effect on the U.S. Administration, Congress, and the American public.

The counterclaims made by the USSR and the United States about the construction of two new ABM radars outside their national territories—which is also prohibited by the treaty—made it possible for the opponents of the agreement in the United States to advance the argument that the treaty is useless on the basis that it is allegedly violated by both sides and that the ABM Treaty has ceased to be in the U.S. national interest.

As a result, the question of the Krasnoyarsk Radar still cannot be considered wholly settled, although new political thinking has played an important role in this area. After a group of U.S. senators and experts were allowed to visit the site and were able to see for themselves that the Krasnoyarsk Radar is not an ABM battle management radar, the "problem" became considerably less acute, but it has not been entirely removed.

Lack of glasnost also did us a disservice on the question of ABM and space weapons. After the USSR sharply criticized SDI, the United States responded by announcing the existence of a similar program in the Soviet Union. These statements were "backed up" by a whole series of "studies" on Soviet programs in the strategic defense sphere. These claimed in particular that the USSR had started active work in a similar direction to SDI much earlier than the United States, that our country allegedly spends far more money on these purposes than the United States, and that in general the Soviet Union's knowledge about SDI comes exclusively from Western sources thanks to the "openness" of U.S. society, while the USSR painstakingly conceals its military activity in an attempt to achieve military superiority under the cover of secrecy. Hence the conclusion that the United States must continue the programs within the framework of the "Strategic Defense Initiative" if for no other reason than to avoid being "surprised" by the Soviet Union in the sphere of antimissile defense.

However, restructuring and glasnost—which have become the motivating force of our society—have made themselves felt in this sphere too. Evidence of that is provided by the aforementioned visit to the Krasnoyarsk Radar by a U.S. delegation, the invitation to foreign representatives to visit the chemical weapons plant in the city of Shikhany, and a number of other events. Full figures on the number of Soviet intermediate- and shorter-range missiles and the number of Soviet and U.S. strategic weapons have been published.

Particular note should be made of the open examination of the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles at the joint session of the Foreign Affairs Commissions of the USSR Supreme Soviet chambers. It was held at a high professional level, it gave a comprehensive assessment of the treaty, and made well-founded recommendations with regard to its ratification. The USSR mass media gave extensive coverage to the progress of the discussion, a number of television broadcasts were devoted to it, and the newspapers published the texts of its participants' speeches.

This practice will undoubtedly be a positive contribution to the cause of strengthening peace and security and creating a new structure of international relations based not on fear and suspicion but on mutual trust and respect for all countries' interests.

Glazunov Views NATO Defense Ministers Meeting

LD2605144488 Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] NATO's Military Planning Committee has opened a 2-day session at defense-minister level in Brussels. What will the defense ministers plan? Here is an answer from Viktor Glazunov:

[Begin Glazunov recording in Russian with superimposed English translation] NATO's secretary general, Lord Carrington, who is about to retire, implores, as he put it, not to be lulled by the wrongly understand cheerful hopes for disarmament. [sentence as heard] Well, as far as the defense ministers' meeting in Brussels is concerned, Lord Carrington needn't worry. The defense ministers will not occupy their thoughts with disarmament, just the other way round. Central to the current meeting will be a program for developing the NATO armed forces in the period up to the year 1994. Compensation and modernization are the program's key words. There is a plan to make up for the forthcoming elimination of medium- and shorter-range missiles by the buildup of nuclear means that remain outside the Washington treaty, and also of conventional weapons. The aim is to intensify NATO's intimidation potential.

Naturally, all this requires more allocations, hence the question about sharing in the burden of expenses. Washington officials believe that their West European partners should pay much more. One can speak, of course, about different approaches to the question of sharing in the military expenses, or to these or other military programs. The main thing is, however, that NATO keeps setting its sights on the intimidation strategy; the meeting of the European group on Wednesday proves that. As before, this intimidation strategy is spearheaded against the Soviet Union, in relation to which, as the American Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci warned, the NATO countries should keep being on the lookout. Hence the need for new efforts expected to give the NATO armed forces a new quality. What is implied is the development of new systems known today as clever weapons. (?They are) weapons that differ a little from nuclear ones in their effectiveness.

Now, how should we treat all this? At a time when first attempts are being made to break down the fetters of confrontation, when in the course of the Soviet-American dialogue steps are discussed and are taken toward bringing about disarmament, when consultations are on in Vienna to work on the mandate for the talks on the reduction of the armed forces and conventional weapons in the region from the Atlantic to the Ural mountains, how should we treat in this light NATO's plans to build up its military might in the next 5 years? Maybe NATO officials think that no arms reduction should take place in the coming 5 years. [end recording]

Levin Criticizes Session

LD2605221488 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1630 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] A 2-day session of the Military Planning Committee opened in Brussels today. Taking part in its work are the defense ministers of 14 of the alliance's 16 countries—the French and the Icelandic defense ministers are absent. The agenda is dominated by the question of endorsing a document worked out by military experts under the title "The Aims of the NATO Armed Forces for the 1989-94 Period". NOUVELLES ATLANTIQUES, the NATO press organ, has expressed the view that acceptance of this document will be an expression of the allies' efforts to further strengthen their armed forces. Here is a "Latest News" commentary from Viktor Levin:

[Levin] There are no doubts about the nature of this document: It is about building up conventional weapons arsenals. At a time when the world—and I am not exaggerating in the least here—is living in expectation of the new Soviet-U.S. summit meeting, the question naturally arises of how the work of this session of the NATO Military Planning Committee fits in with the forthcoming talks between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

Has the NATO session been timed to coincide with the Moscow meeting, and is its planned decision of an intentional nature? I think that one could answer both yes and no to these questions. No, because first, although this is not the main thing, the session was planned long before the summit date was fixed; second, and in my view more significantly, there has been as yet no change in NATO's policy. Indeed, it would be perhaps rather difficult to count on this happening in the near future.

So why, then, do I say that there is also an element of deliberate decision in the present session? Because their efforts to conduct talks with us from a position of strength—and the prepared document is aimed precisely at strengthening this position—is not only not being concealed but is being blatantly publicized by top representatives of the U.S. Administration. I don't just mean Secretary of Defense Carlucci, although his pronouncements are distinguished by their particular harshness and smack of saber-rattling.

So what conclusion follows? In my view, since NATO has been and remains a reality with which we are fairly familiar, it would be wrong to dramatize what is going on in Brussels. But this does not in the least mean that NATO's buildup of its armed forces can be ignored. It is not enough just to recognize realities: They have to be taken into consideration. And that is how we are acting today.

Reagan, Gorbachev Awarded 'Golden Minute' Prize

LD2705050188 Moscow TASS in English 0449 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Madrid May 27 TASS—Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and U.S. President Ronald Reagan have been awarded an honourary "Golden Minute" prize for 1987 by the popular Spanish radio station Radio Minuto for the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, which they signed in Washington.

The prize-awarding ceremony, attended by politicians, workers in culture and arts, journalists and public figures, was held in Barcelona Thursday night.

Soviet Ambassador to Spain S. Romanovskiy, who accepted the prize, read out Gorbachev's message expressing his sincere gratitude for the award which he described as an appreciation of the Soviet leadership's efforts to improve the international situation and strengthen peace and security of nations.

"The signing of the treaty banning intermediate- and shorter-range missiles by the Soviet Union and the United States was an event of utmost importance in international life," Marcelino Rodriguez de Castro, director general of Radio Minuto, told TASS correspondent Robert Serebrennikov.

"The efforts taken by the leaders of the two great powers to achieve mutual understanding and relaxation of tensions are worthy of the highest praise.

"We heartily welcome any progress in relations between the Soviet Union and the United States. The world with exceptional interest is waiting for the forthcoming summit meeting in Moscow which we hope will be of extreme significance," he said.

Marcelino Rodriguez de Castro pointed out that the Soviet policy was growing more and more popular and winning sympathies around the world.

The Golden Minute prize is awarded to politicians, cultural and scientific workers, individuals and groups of people for outstanding achievements, heroism, self-sacrifice and hospitality.

The Barcelona-based Radio Minuto station, broadcasting news and musical programmes, now has branches in 18 largest cities of Spain.

Kashlev Notes Progress at Vienna Talks

LD2605132888 Moscow TASS in English 1324 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Vienna May 26 TASS—Ambassador Yuriy Kashlev, head of the Soviet delegation at the Vienna meeting, today denied allegations that the Vienna talks were advancinng only in military matters and that progress was blocked in humanitarian issues.

"The current Vienna meeting of representatives of countries-participants in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe has entered its final stage", Kashlev told TASS correspondent Yuriy Tyupayev.

"Nine neutral and non-aligned European countries, participating in the meeting, have put forward the draft of the final document which will be used as a basis to complete in the near future the coordination of numerous specific arrangements on military-political, trade and economic, and humanitarian issues, as well as to finally define the list and mandates of future European forums, conferences, and meetings dealing with these matters.

"Progress is obvious not only in military matters, where an agreement has been reached to resume a conference on confidence- and security-building measures and begin new talks on conventional weapons from the Atlantic to the Urals, but also, though to a lesser degree, in the humanitarian sphere," Yuriy Kashlev went on to say.

"Moreover, I would say, that it is in matters of human rights, people's contacts and humanitarian cooperation that the Vienna meeting, on the whole, has raised the European process to a qualitatively new level."

The Soviet representative said that all that was very important in the context of Soviet-American relations where human rights issues and people-to-people contacts had been irritants for many years and had been viewed mainly in the confrontational aspect.

In the past two or three years the former obstructions have been removed and the tonality of Soviet-American relations has begun to change.

Now, after Vienna, a possibility has arisen to consolidate the beginning turn through new international agreements and mechanisms, Kashlev said.

He expressed the hope that all those positive changes would be noted at the forthcoming Soviet-American summit.

Peace Committee Official Comments on Meeting

LD2705091488 Moscow TASS in English 2258 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—TASS correspondent Vladimir Leonidov writes:

A public group "Conversiya" is being organised under the Soviet Peace Committee [SPC]. The group will include inventors and rationalisers offering projects as to how to readjust for peaceful ends the military equipment to be released in the process of disarmament.

Today's meeting between the SPC leaders and representatives of Soviet and foreign public was devoted to the discussion of the SPC activities in the conditions of restructuring.

"While previously we engaged mainly in international activities, at present the committee is reaching out to a broad audience inside the country," said Vladimir Orel, first deputy chairman of the SPC. "Formed under the Peace Committee are associations of teachers, lawyers, ecologists, musicians who come up with programmes of practical actions for peace. The previously created associations—'Retired Generals for Peace', public commissions for disarmament, for liaison with religious circles."

On the same day, at the Peace Committee initiative, a round-table discussion was held in the international public information centre opened in Moscow in connection with the Soviet-American summit meeting. The round-table discussed the concept of a comprehensive system of international security. It was pointed out that politicians and the public must not lose sight of other, no less important questions such as those of hunger, demography, ecology and the development of energy-saving technologies.

Chaldymov Outlines Framework for Security Debate

PM2605144988 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 May 88 Second Edition p 3

[Doctor of Philosophical Sciences Prof N. Chaldymov article under the rubric "From the Positions of the New Thinking": "Security for Each and Everyone"]

[Text] Recently KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has begun to invite readers to take part in an express-analysis of the materials printed in the newspaper. While making no attempt to analyze specific articles from last month, I express my delight at the emergence of the new rubric "From the Positions of the New Thinking," which covers contemporary world problems. I would like not only to express my delight but also to put forward some ideas which are, in my opinion, directly linked with this rubric. Their theme is the problems of universal security.

Every state has always been concerned for its own security, and alliances of states have often emerged in order to jointly and collectively resolve this task. But mankind has never yet been faced with the dilemma of choosing between universal security and a confrontation fraught with universal catastrophe.

Security has a variety of aspects today. It encompasses all spheres in the life of society: economic, political, ecological, and human. But the military aspect is still the most important. It is this that we will examine. The building of a system of universal security involves three elements: elaboration of the appropriate concept in light of the realities of the day; propagation and introduction of the given concept at state level and among the broadest masses of earth's population; and determination of specific measures regarding this concept's implementation. The crux of the matter consists in building international relations not at the expense of one's partners or rivals but together with them.

Given the realities of the nuclear age, security must be achieved by excluding war from mankind's life as a means of achieving political, economic, ideological, and other ends. Today every state's political course must amount to the strengthening of trust and mutual understanding, expansion of cooperation between states, and reduction of their arms instead of confrontation and an unchecked arms race. In order to achieve this, it is necessary to give up views of problems of national and international security left over from the past, abandon the dogmas of "nuclear deterrence," and get rid of the mutual suspicion and mistrust which have accumulated over the many decades of "cold war."

It is these ideas born of the new political thinking which now form the essence of the socialist community states' military policy. More and more people in other countries are also allying themselves with the new political thnking.

But how hard it is for the creaking wheels of Western countries' official policy to turn. Individual new trends have taken shape there but as yet, no radical change. This was shown by the extraordinary NATO Council session held in Brussels early in May. Voices were heard at the session calling for more stable relations with the USSR. But its documents once again described the Soviet Union as the "potential aggressor," and there was once again reference to the "Soviet military threat."

The text of the statement adopted in Brussels indicates that the NATO leadership would like to impose unilateral disarmament on socialist countries, wreck the present structure of the general-purpose Soviet Armed Forces, and ultimately gain military superiority.

Certain statements by U.S. official figures such as, for instance, the President's speech at the International Affairs Council in Springfield, or certain statements by Vice President G. Bush, evoke at the very least a feeling of astonishment. They are redolent of the spirit of the worst days of the "cold war." Certain influential Western circles do not want to relinquish customary stereotypes, and U.S. monopoly circles still have a very strong desire to establish a world order that accords with their interests alone.

The following question is appropriate: Is universal security possible in this sort of situation, and is it worth talking about this security at all today if recurrences of anticommunism and militarism are constantly manifested in international relations and poisoning them?

There are different answers to this. Some people, for instance, believe that despite the militarist sentiments in Western countries, no one wants to fight. I consider this wishful thinking because the circles which still rely on armed force in relations with other countries and deem this quite legitimate and justified still hold powerful positions.

But if the source of the military threat is so tenacious, is there any point to the peace initiatives put forward by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries? Maybe only toughness and an unbending and uncompromising attitude will compel the forces of evil to fall back. No, these arguments are also incorrect. You do not need to be very smart to derail talks. At one time we also acted in that way but failed to achieve the anticipated effect. Today statesmanship consists in seeing and understanding the essence of the contradictions and disagreements and not drifting apart so far that you cannot hear one another.

One can now name a large number of representatives of the bourgeois world who oppose war and advocate peaceful coexistence and the establishment of close contact with the peoples of the socialist countries. They back up the sincerity of their desires by vigorous actions. Consequently, all representatives of the bourgeoisie must not be numbered as political reactionaries. This was incorrect before, but now it is simply wrong. Of course, enemies still exist—the representatives of anticommunist, militarist circles who are prepared to use force to destroy socialism. It is very important for us to see what and whom we are fighting.

What can happen, for instance, with society divided into opposing military blocs? In the future, they must be dissolved. But at present the blocs are a reality. So opportunities must be sought for coexistence. Reciprocal information about the sides' intentions and actions is one way of doing this, in order to remove mutual mistrust and hostility.

Joint discussion of both sides' military doctrines could play an important role in removing distrust in order to strategically reorient armed forces from preparing and waging wars toward preventing them instead. Are such consultations possible? Yes, this is confirmed by the constructive nature of the meeting of the USSR and U.S. defense ministers held in Bern. Army General D.T. Yazov noted in assessing the results of this meeting: "The conversations give us grounds to state that, by meeting each other halfway and taking account of mutual security interests, we can achieve a positive solution to extremely complex military problems."

A comparable approach which prevailed in Vienna at the recent Ergomas (European Group for Studying the Problems of Relations Between Armies and Society) inaugural session—the author of this article also attended—can be cited. This organization's main task as formulated by Ergomas President Prof R. Zoll (FRG) consists in pooling national scientific potentials—representatives of 21 Europeans states attended the session—to elaborate a concept for collective European security. The representatives of various countries' scientific circles evinced the desire to develop cooperation with all forces favoring peace and progress and establish contacts so as to better understand each state's policy and preclude erroneous opinions of one another.

The task of concluding and observing bilateral and multilateral agreements aimed at enshrining the principles of international security in law is still important. Yet it must be taken into account that parity and equilibrium at very high levels cannot per se save the world from catastrophic cataclysms. Therefore, the task of providing a material guarantee of security—a reduction in the levels of arms to a degree where the very possibility of aggressive offensive operations would be eliminated—arises in all its magnitude.

Reliance on military-technical means and on the desire to achieve superiority over other countries by increasing the numbers of arms cannot nowadays consolidate security. On the contrary, this path inevitably leads to one's own security being set against other people's security and international security.

The logical development of contemporary military policy leads directly to the theory and practice linked with the complete abandonment of "nuclear deterrence." This, in particular, gives rise to the concept of the "third zero," which presupposes the elimination of tactical nuclear weapons. This step may follow or accompany a conventional arms reduction. The Warsaw Pact states officially stated their readiness to hold consultations with NATO countries on the numerical strength of the two opposing blocs' armed forces and armaments in order to most speedily eliminate the existing imbalances. M.S. Gorbachev said that we are offering to put our cards on the table, exchange all data, evaluate this, uncover the asymmetries in armaments and troops, and tackle the resolution of the problems.

But this process must be adequate for the task. It is difficult to understand the FRG Government's logic in submitting the "New Concept for the Reduction of Conventional Arms in Europe," whereby it suggests that Warsaw Pact countries cut 80 division-level troop formations while NATO countries reduce only 2 such formations. This despite the fact that the NATO total of combat-ready formations (divisions and brigades) is 50 percent higher than that of the Warsaw Pact. This stance harkens back to the old thinking.

Our time insistently necessitates different approaches. Every state, great and small, must realize its full responsibility for ensuring mankind's survival and must contribute what it can to the creation of a system of stable and universal security—because today the security of each individual country is everyone's security.

United States & Canada

Further Reportage on Reagan Stopover in Finland

Helsinki Prepares for Visit

PM2605102588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 May 88 First Edition p 5

[Own correspondent Yu. Kuznetsov dispatch: "Upcoming Stopover"]

[Text] Helsinki, 25 May—The Finnish capital is preparing to welcome a large group of guests from the United States who will make a 4-day stopover here on their way to the Soviet Union. I am referring to President R. Reagan and his immediate entourage, as well as the impressive cohort of journalists arriving on a second special flight together with staffers of the White House and other U.S. departments and establishments. The President's private airplane is expected to land here late Wednesday night, but, nevertheless, it is reported that Finnish President M. Koivisto and other representatives of the Finnish leadership will be at the airport. The Kalastajatorppa Hotel will serve as the residence of the U.S. President and his staffers. For security reasons no other information on R. Reagan's stay in Finland is being made public.

The Finnish mass media readily point out just now that in 1975 the City of Helsinki gave its name to the process which is now leaving its mark on the situation in the world—the process of easing international tension and lessening the arms race, which is absolutely essential for mankind's survival and for its future generations' progress.

Reagan on Northern Seas

LD2605132388 Moscow TASS in English 1319 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Helsinki May 26 TASS—U.S. President Ronald Reagan, in an interview with the newspaper HELSINGIN SANOMAT, has said that the recent years saw changes in the nature of Soviet-American dialogue.

The United States and the Soviet Union, he pointed out, maintained a regular dialogue in four areas, including human rights, regional problems, bilateral relations and arms reduction.

These maturing relations had already come to fruition, including the INF Treaty, the President said.

At the same time, Reagan observed, there would always be disagreement between the United States and the USSR due to differences in their political systems and views of the role of the individual in society.

In the opinion of the President, this could not prevent the two countries from maintaining constructive relations.

Asked to comment on Finnish President Mauno Koivisto's proposal to discuss confidence-building measures applying primarily to the northern sea areas, their air space and naval activity in that region, Reagan actually rejected it by saying that such restrictions would weaken NATO's potential of deterrence in Europe.

News Conference Views Moscow Summit Topics

PM2705082188 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 May 88 Single Edition p 4

[Captain First Rank V. Kuzar report: "Strengthening Trust and Mutual Understanding"]

[Text] The upcoming talks between M.S. Gorbachev and R. Reagan in Moscow should be seen as a major event not only in Soviet-U.S. relations but also in world politics, USSR Deputy Foreign Minister V.F. Petrovskiy has stated at a news conference. The news conference was held as part of the press center's program for the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting and was devoted to the Soviet approach to the main topics of the meeting between the USSR and U.S. leaders. The following also took part: Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev, chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff and USSR first deputy defense minister; Academician G.A. Arbatov, director of the United States of America and Canada Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences; and N.V. Shishlin, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Information Subdepartment [podotdel].

It was stressed in the course of the news conference that the new Soviet-U.S. summit meeting holds a special place in the two countries' relations. It not only sums up the results of previous work but is also called upon to considerably intensify the entire process of relations and outline the main directions for further efforts to build a more secure world. Arms limitation and reduction, regional conflicts, humanitarian questions, and bilateral relations are on the meeting's agenda.

It has not proved possible to prepare the treaty on a 50-percent reduction in strategic offensive arms in time for the present talks. But there can be no disappointment at this. The future treaty touches on key aspects of the two countries' security and must therefore be prepared thoroughly from the viewpoint of balancing the sides' interests and checked out down to the smallest details.

As for regional conflicts, a good example also exists in this field. The experience of cooperation in preparing the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan can serve as the basis for settling other conflict situations as well.

The program for comprehensive ties between the USSR and the United States is being successfully implemented. A number of new agreements in this sphere are in the offing. However, the potential for bilateral relations is not being fully realized.

The participants in the news conference answered questions from Soviet and foreign journalists.

Question: What next after the fourth meeting?

Answer: There is a simple answer to this—a fifth meeting. However, it must be noted that the changes in Soviet-U.S. relations are also changing the agenda for these meetings. Whereas previously it was a question of removing tension and confrontation, it is now a matter of the demilitarization of relations. The first steps have shown that this is possible. Efforts will be directed toward this.

Question: The program for President Reagan's stay in Moscow envisages a meeting with "dissidents." What can you say about this?

Answer: As our country's guest, the President is free to decide for himself which Soviet citizens it is useful and interesting for him to meet outside the framework of official meetings. During the preparations for the visit, we thought that it would be a meeting with representatives of broad strata of the Soviet public. This was the nature of the meetings that M.S. Gorbachev had in Washington. However, the President's intention appears in a different light, since it is a question of a clearly tendentious selection of interlocutors. This action will hardly help to improve mutual understanding between the two countries.

Question: When speaking to the graduates of the U.S Naval Academy, U.S. Defense Secretary F. Carlucci stated that U.S. defense requirements will depend on the actions of "our main enemy, the Soviet Union," and that the "Russians are continuing to arm and the configuration of their forces is quite clearly offensive." Can you comment on this statement made on the eve of the Soviet-U.S. meeting in Moscow?

Answer: We fundamentally disagree with the U.S. defense secretary's contention that the configuration of the Soviet Armed Forces is of an offensive nature. Let us see whose country is surrounded by military bases. It is the Soviet Union which is surrounded by U.S. bases where there are thousands of aircraft, 500,000 servicemen, and forward-based systems. Our country has nothing like this. Moreover, we are proposing to make the deployment of troops subject to controls [kontrol]. However, Carlucci has an extremely peculiar approach to controls. He is for controls when it comes to Soviet territory and against when it comes to U.S territory.

Question: Washington has announced that part of the ABM Treaty will allegedly be examined specially and an early warning agreement may be concluded.

Answer: It is probably a question here of notification of missile launches. Under the existing agreement, notification was only provided of missile launches outside national territory. A few days ago the United States proposed that notification also be provided of missile launches within the country. This proposal is under examination.

Question: What is the numerical strength of the limited contingent of Soviet troops in Afghanistan?

Answer: As of 15 May it numbered 100,300 men. And 9,500 men, as already announced, have been withdrawn from Afghanistan.

Question: You mentioned the "enemy image" cultivated in the United States and other Western countries. Don't you think that the USSR could help to eliminate this thesis by embarking on a unilateral reduction of Soviet troops in central Europe?

Answer: Why should we reduce troops unilaterally? We are not in a position of superiority. We propose that data be exchanged both for Europe as a whole and also for regions, but NATO is not prepared for this. As for the existing asymmetries, we are prepared to eliminate them on a reciprocal basis.

Answers were also given to other questions from journalists.

Petrovskiy Comments Cited

LD2605201888 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1451 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Gerasimov, chief of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs Information Directorate, introduced to newsmen the following participants in a news conference: Petrovskiy, USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs; Marshal of the Soviet Union Akhromeyev, first deputy minister of defense and chief of General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces; Academician Arbatov, director of the United States of America and Canada Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences; and Shishlin, senior employee of the CPSU Central Committee.

Vladimir Fedorovich Petrovskiy delivered an opening speech to those present.

[Begin Petrovskiy recording] The forthcoming talks between the leaders of the USSR and the United States are seen by us as a major event not only in Soviet-U.S. relations but also in world politics. Concerning arms limitation and disarmament, the treaty on a 50-percent reduction in strategic offensive weapons of the USSR and the United States and the treaty on adhering to and not withdrawing from the ABM Treaty will be key issues at the forthcoming summit in Moscow.

If one is to evaluate the situation objectively, then nowadays we have to note considerable progress in the work on limiting nuclear armaments since Reykjavik. The very fact that the reality of the objective of a

50-percent reduction in strategic offensive weapons hardly evokes doubts in anyone is a significant and reassuring phenomenon in world politics.

Other aspects of disarmament will also be discussed at the talks with the President, including such as banning nuclear weapons tests, eliminating chemical weapons, and reducing armed forces and conventional weapons in Europe. It seems that here, too, the Moscow meeting will be able to play the role of a catalyst of bilateral and multilateral talks on these issues, which are under way.

Regional problems will take an important place at the talks with the U.S. leadership. In this sphere substantial certain cooperation is becoming established between our countries, which was in particular manifested by the signing of the historic agreements on Afghanistan. We consider that the experience from such an interaction could turn out to be useful for rendering assistance to interested parties in a peace settlement in other regional conflicts and crises. A special topicality is acquired today by the statement in Geneva by the leaders of the USSR and the United States about the importance of using the United Nations Organization and other international establishments for tackling regional conflicts.

These talks are carried out in the period when the situation in the world is changing for the better and when a turn from confrontation toward cooperation is under way. The attainment of the agreement on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles and the Afghan settlement—these striking examples of renewal in international politics—provide convincing evidence that the dynamic and developing dialogue between the USSR and the United States can and should become one of the important sources of positive changes in our interrelated world.

The themes of the meeting are the positions which were attained by us and by our partners focused into the future. The Moscow summit talks represent an important landmark toward a long-term objective: overcoming the legacy of the cold war and setting up a solid multilayered system of constructive mutual relations with the United States, the stability of which will not be affected by unfavorable influences. And we are confident that not only our countries but the entire international community stand to gain from that.

The meeting in Moscow opens real opportunities elevating dialogue and mutual understanding onto a new level and for looking for accords in all fields of the agenda of Soviet-U.S. relations.

Traditionally there are four such fields which represent mutual interest for both the USSR and the United States. These are arms limitation and reduction, regional problems, humanitarian questions, and bilateral contacts. They were discussed practically at all meetings between the Soviet and U.S. leaders. [end recording]

The participants in the press conference then answered questions from Soviet and foreign journalists.

[Begin recording] [RIZOSPASTIS journalist] RIZOSPASTIS, Greece. I have a question for Academician Arbatov. Well, this is the fourth summit meeting and you as a man who studies the problems of the United States, its history and prospects, what do you think will happen next, after this meeting? How do you see the future development of Soviet-U.S. relations?

[Arbatov] The simplest answer would be: the fifth meeting comes into vision after the fourth one. But if one is to speak to the point I think that what has taken place over the last 3 or 2.5 years in Soviet-U.S. relations has changed the agenda. In the past our objectives were more limited and it was necessary, say, to weaken the tension and to change the course of events which led toward confrontation. An opportunity has opened now to move along the path of demilitarization of Soviet-U.S. relations, in a word away from all the structures of the cold war and its infrastructure which was created in the postwar period. [end recording]

A wide range of international issues was examined at the news conference. Reporters were interested in the Soviet Union's approach to the solving of the Iran-Iraq conflict. They asked about the situation in Afghanistan, from where the withdrawal of the Soviet troops has commenced, and about the development of relations with Arab countries. Marshal Akhromeyev was asked: How many members has the Soviet military contingent in Afghanistan? By May 15, the marshal answered, it amounted to 100,300 people. So far the Soviet Union has withdrawn 9,500 soldiers and officers.

A GUARDIAN correspondent asked: Is it compulsory in the Soviet Union during recruitment into the Soviet Armed Forces to be guided by the law on military duty? In the United States and in Great Britain stress is placed on forming a small professional army.

[Begin Akhromeyev recording] There is a certain contradiction in this question. Indeed, the Army of the United States is a professional one. However, I would not say that the word small is fitting for it because if one takes U.S. Army and the National Guard—and precisely these components are a part of the Armed Forces—then all in all this means that there are 3.3 million people in the United States, so it is not so very small. And similarly in Great Britain. But the principles of recruitment, where to recruit into the army on a contractual basis and where to recruit not on the basis of compulsory military service but on the basis of honorary military duty—which is how it is written in our Constitution—is an internal matter of each state which depends on very many causes. This is why here, I think, it is necessary not to proceed toward determining obligatory principles for the recruitment of each state but to reduce the armed forces. To reduce them in the absolute sense of the word. We are ready for this. We say this—and Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev said it too—that enormous groupings of armed forces amounting to 3 million people are facing each other in Europe. They are armed with the latest weapons. And we are ready to reduce them. The stages have been defined in our proposals. And when we agree on the numbers which each of us has, we will reduce at first the asymmetries which the sides have and then we will reduce the armed forces of the sides. After this we will give them a capability—or rather we will impart to them or render them incapable of offensive operations.

And we are ready for this. All we have to do is to open the talks on armed forces and armaments in Europe. And as for the principle of recruitment into the armed forces, I think that this is an internal matter for each state which should tackle this question itself. [end recording]

The participants in the news conference answered other questions from newsmen.

Nuclear, Chemical Weapon Issues

LD2605114488 Moscow TASS in English 1134 GMT 26 May 88

["On USSR's Approach to Ban on Nuclear Tests"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—There has been some progress towards prohibiting nuclear tests, Marshal of the Soviet Union Sergey Akhromeyev, USSR first deputy defence minister—chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the USSR, toid a press conference here today.

The joint Soviet-American experiment of monitoring nuclear tests, which is being carried out by experts of the two countries in Semipalatinsk and Nevada, is evidence that "a sufficiently long road" has been covered in that direction. "If after that experiment we come to the conclusion that such a monitoring is useful," the marshal said, "then the next in turn will be the ratification of the treaty on the limitation on underground nuclear weapon tests of 1974 and the treaty on underground nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes of 1976."

Speaking on the talks on chemical weapons, Marshal Akhromeyev noted that "regrettably, progress in that field has been slowed down." He named as the main obstacle the problem of control of the plants producing chemical weapons. The Soviet side favours that all the factories (both state-owned and private ones) including those belonging to international corporations, be subject to control. The United States does not agree to that thus far.

Indeed, Vladimir Petrovskiy, USSR deputy foreign minister, said in his turn the perspective is now outlining of ratificaiton of the treaties of 1974 and 1976. "Yet," he emphasised, "ratification is to the Soviet Union not an aim in itself, but only an intermediate step. Right after that we consider it necessary to attend to a limitation of the yield and number of nuclear blasts in the course of a year so as to be able to make progress to complete a general ban on nuclear weapons tests." This is the way we in the Soviet Union interpret the contents of the work done by the delegations within the framework of the full-scale talks in Geneva.

As far as chemical weapons are concerned, the Soviet deputy foreign minister said, I would like to add that much is being said now about the need for taking urgent measures towards non-proliferation and non-use of chemical weapons. The latest developments have demonstrated the urgency of such measures. Yet their adoption should not obstruct the main goal: a ban on chemical weapons and elimination of the industrial base of their production.

"The Soviet Union has covered its part of the way in that direciton, and now it is for the United States to act," Vladimir Petrovskiy underscored.

Strategic Arms Reduction

LD2605115488 Moscow TASS in English 1128 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—There has been a good deal of progress in working out a treaty to reduce strategic offensive arms in conjunction with the ABM Treaty of 1972 over the six months since the Washington summit, Soviet Deputy Defense Minister Sergey Akhromeyev said here today.

Akhromeyev, who holds the military rank of marshal and is chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the USSR, was speaking at a news conference here, which discussed the Soviet approach to the key subjects due to be raised at the upcoming Soviet-American summit.

The Soviet Union and the United States had hammered out the form in which they could seal the relationship between the ABM Treaty and the one on strategic offensive arms, he said.

But "as far as the substance is concerned, there are yet quite a few disagreements remaining here," he added.

Marshal Akhromeyev said that the two countries had together come a long way to set sublimits on ballistic missiles, both ground-based and sea-launched.

"In Washington it is only an understanding in principle that has been reached, while now we are close to an accord on more specific issues of the numbers of such launchers and warheads.

"Headway has been made on air-launched missiles as well," he said.

He said at the same time that the USSR and the United States had not yet been able to agree on sea-launched cruise missiles.

"As far as I know, Secretary of State George Shultz said the American delegation was carrying certain proposals on these matters to Moscow.

"It would be good if in Moscow it proves possible to prepare a document in the form of directions by the leaders of the two countries to their delegations at the talks in Geneva," Marshal Akhromeyev said.

Answering a question from a reporter, he said he disagreed with the U.S. military that sea-launched cruise missiles did not lend themselves to monitoring and verification.

It was possible to come to terms on verification by agreeing on the types of submarines carrying sea-launched cruises and on the types of surface ships, but the U.S. Navy was against that, Akhromeyev explained.

He said that when he had talked in Reykjavik on the issue with former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Perle, the latter had asked him whether the Soviet Union wanted to verify the presence of cruises on U.S. naval ships. Akhromeyev answered in the affirmative and Perle's response was that that would never be allowed to happen.

"The U.S. side should agree that the entire triad, all the strategic systems, must be equally subject to verification and then the talks will go faster and we'll come to a successful result earlier," the Soviet deputy defense minister said.

Briefing on Disarmament, Security-87 'Yearbook'

Primakov Notes Goals

LD2705103488 Moscow TASS in English 0932 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Moscow May 27 TASS—The "Disarmament and Security-87" yearbook brought out by the Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the USSR Academy of Sciences reflects new approaches of the Soviet Union to problems of the home and foreign policy that developed after 1985, Academician Yevgeniy Primakov has stated. The director of the institute spoke here today at the press center of the summit meeting in connection with the presentation of the yearbook.

The yearbook will gradually accumulate more and more data, including from Soviet sources. "The authors of the yearbook do not claim to express some final and incontestable truth. It is only food for thought, information to be used in a further scientific and political discussion," Academician Primakov pointed out. He said that such discussions were needed today for preparing more significant political solutions that would be on a level with the real development of the situation.

Primakov on Regional Issues

LD2705111788 Moscow TASS in English 1053 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Moscow May 27 TASS—"The Soviet Union has new approaches to regional conflicts. One of the approaches is to settle internal situations through national reconciliation," stated Academician Yevgeniy Primakov, director of the Institute of the World Economy and International Relations of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

He spoke here today at the press centre of the summit meeting in view of the presentation of the institute's yearbook "Disarmament and Security-87."

A solution to the Palestinian problem by granting the Palestinians the right to self-determination is the core of a Mid-East settlement, Yevgeniy Primakov said in answer to questions.

"However, this is not the only element along the way. It is also essential to bear in mind the just demands of Syria and other Arab countries. There are also Israel's interests to maintain its security." All these elements should be examined in their interrelationship, the Soviet scholar said. In this connection he called for the convocation of an international conference on this issue.

Academician Primakov came out in favour of doing everything possible for active work of the United Nations secretary-general's mission for a settlement of the Iran-Iraq war issue.

Falin on Verification

LD2705104188 Moscow TASS in English 1031 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Moscow May 27 TASS—Time has passed when the "Soviets-aren't-prepared-to-open-up-to verification" argument served as the trump card for the other side to evade taking important decisions, the chief of the Soviet NOVOSTI press agency said here today.

Valentin Falin was speaking at the Soviet-U.S. summit press center as Moscow's Academic Institute of the World Economy and International Relations launched its "Disarmament and Security '87" yearbook at a news conference there.

Commenting on the issue of verification in the case of a nuclear testing ban, he said that "any kind of verification acceptable to the United States is acceptable to us as well."

Falin added in reply to reporters' questions: "The security problem today is first of all a political one and must be resolved predominantly by political means. And we have already drawn the relevant practical conclusions."

Speaking of the U.S. President's upcoming visit here, he quoted an oriental proverb as saying "every long road begins with a first step" and then noted: "The President has been very slow to make that step. But he has finally made it and one can only welcome this."

Batenin on Vienna Talks

LD2705111188 Moscow TASS in English 1051 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Moscow May 27 TASS—Certain political and military prerequisites for discussing at the level of official representatives of two military-political alliances the military doctrines from the viewpoint of enhancing confidence for each other have already been created now, said military expert of the CPSU Central Committee, Major-General Geliy Batenin.

He spoke today to journalists at the press centre of the Soviet-American summit meeting at the ceremony of launching the yearbook "Disarmament and Security-87," prepared by the Institute of World Economics and International Relations of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

The question of excluding the element of nuclear deterrence should take the main place in the coming negotiations, said General Batenin. One cannot view nuclear weapons as the main political support in solving military conflicts, he said.

Answering journalists' questions concerning the situation at the Vienna consultation of 23 Warsaw Treaty and NATO countries on elaborating the mandate of negotiations on reduction of troops and armaments in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals, Geliy Batenin said that "the situation at the consultation is better than at the Vienna negotiations." In principle, the wording of the mandate, the general said, enables one in the near future already to approach the solution of the question of the beginning of such negotiations.

Paper Ponders Course of Relations With U.S.

LD2605144388 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 26 May 88 p 3

[Vladlen Kuznetsov article: "Is Spring Coming After the Thaw?"]

[Text] Moscow is getting ready to welcome the President of the United States. Fourteen years have passed since a White House leader last set foot in Moscow. Such a hiatus can hardly be regarded as normal in our age of communications and constantly shrinking distances. Nonetheless, there is absolutely nothing sensational about the current visit. Over the past 3 years M.S. Gorbachev and R. Reagan have met three times—in Geneva, Reykjavik, and Washington. The fourth dialogue at summit level indicates that relations between the two powers, which until quite recently were at freezing point, are gradually warming up and entering a period of a political thaw. They are beginning to follow a straight, normal, and—it is to be hoped—constructive course.

It is well known that in the modern world it is much easier to quarrel than to restore or establish good relations. Soviet-American relations, being unsettled for many years, deprived our peoples of many mutual gains and advantages, normal cooperation, and also just plain human contact and clouded the two countries' peace prospects and the horizons of international politics. Their level did not correspond either to the needs and aspirations of the two countries, or to the imperatives of world development. It seemed that they had entered an impasse. Then suddenly they acquired dynamism and have already produced impressive practical results.

A real phenomenon? Beyond question. Dialogue at summit level has been rehabilitated. Sporadic in the past, it is becoming regular. In the course of this dialogue bilateral relations are being discussed, as well as the whole spectrum of the fundamental problems that both East and West and the whole present-day world are engaged in settling. An Institute for Permanent Political Consultations under the auspices of foreign ministries has been set up and exchange visits between parliamentarians are being organized. The first contact has been made between defense ministers. Centers for the reduction of the nuclear danger have been set up in Moscow and Washington. The two countries' scientists are conducting joint experiments with the aim of ensuring more reliable monitoring [kontrol] of nuclear tests. Access is being granted to some arms plants, and glasnost and openness in the military sphere are increasing.

The dialogue at summit level is being combined with another dialogue—dialogue between representatives of the public. Whereas in the past it was reminiscent of a tiny stream that dried up from time to time, it is now promising to become a proper river. As if making up for lost time, Soviet people and Americans from various walks of life and of various ages are surprisingly quickly finding a common language. Equally quickly, they are getting used to representatives of both countries appearing on the pages of newspapers and journals and television screens and looking nothing like the traditional "enemy image."

By concluding the treaty on the elimination of two classes of missiles, the USSR and the United States initiated real nuclear disarmament. By acting as guarantors of the political settlement around Afghanistan, the USSR and the United States have taken the first step toward ceasing to regard the "Third World" as an arena of East-West confrontation. These are the most important, most impressive, and most promising results of the positive change in Soviet-American relations. These results rank among the international community's most outstanding achievements of the postwar era.

While paying due tribute to the successes achieved in changing our world for the better and to the positive shift in Soviet-American relations, we must not succumb to euphoria and illusions. The path to a safe future is thorny and difficult—it has to be literally hacked out like a road through the jungle. It passes through the abyss of misunderstanding and distrust, prejudice, suspicion, and confrontation, and "cold war" complexes. How much more water will have to flow under the bridge before the image of a partner replaces the "enemy image"....

"While recognizing the differences which really exist between us, by acting together we can build a bridge across the gulf which divides us," R. Reagan believes. People in the USSR are ready to build such a bridge and they have proved this in practice. Many people in the United States also want this. Judging by recent authoritative opinion polls, "the Soviet Union rates high as a trade partner" and "the Russians get the highest marks for their reliability." Officials recognize that in order to expand the volume of trade it is necessary to grant the USSR most-favored-nation status, however, they are making this decision dependent on all kind of conditions which bear no direct relation to this matter. The same people are opposed to the USSR joining international economic organizations.

Washington's foreign policy course remains contradictory, inconsistent, and dichotomous, as it were.

On the one hand, the administration conducts an extensive and productive dialogue with Moscow. On the other hand, it preaches the clearly unproductive method of "putting pressure on the Soviets," demands virtually a change in the USSR's internal system, and deems it possible to interfere in the USSR's affairs.

On the one hand, Washington pursues the reduction of military confrontation and is working together with Moscow on preparing 50-percent cuts in strategic offensive forces and drawing up an agreement on problems of nuclear tests and an international convention banning chemical weapons. On the other hand, the administration is refusing to accept the Soviet Union's proposal to exchange information on the correlation of armed forces and conventional arms and it has not given up its attempts to achieve military superiority by means of the "Star Wars" program and "compensation" for the elimination of two classes of nuclear missiles.

On the one hand, Washington, together with Moscow, has put its signature to a such a sensible document as the political settlement around Afghanistan. And on the other hand, it is mounting armed operations against Iran and staging shows of strength vis-a-vis Panama and Nicaragua.

Such is the political dualism of U.S. foreign policy. It not only hampers the settlement of political issues and the formation of the new political thinking. It is also preventing the United States itself from resolving its own real problems, which were clearly outlined by former Senator George McGovern in the influential journal FOREIGN AFFAIRS: "America's most serious enemy is not Russian tanks and missiles, nor the Nicaraguan Government, nor even Cuban leader Fidel Castro. Our enemies are the debilitating arms race, our growing foreign debt (after many years of being the world's biggest creditor), the Third World's debts to U.S. banks, which cannot be paid back, our lack of competitiveness in world trade, and our resultant inability to play a more influential and constructive role in the development of the Third World."

The power of realities, the power of circumstances, is stronger than anything else. The current situation in the world is completely clear-cut on at least one point: It rules out a direct nuclear confrontation. Nuclear war would be irrational, nonsensical, absurd, and tantamount to a universal catastrophe, to the end of the world. The recognition of this truth, which is, moreover, axiomatic, is the first commandment of the new political thinking, which our countries and our leaders are mastering, albeit, in my opinion, not to the same extent.

It seems that the USSR and the United States have finally grasped Ariadne's thread which leads out of the nuclear labyrinth. The first step has been taken. The next ones will be much more difficult: a 50-percent cut in offensive strategic arms while ensuring the strict preservation and strengthening of the system [rezhim] of the ABM Treaty (it has proved impossible to prepare a treaty to this effect for signing at the Moscow meeting), the ending of nuclear tests, the elimination of chemical arms, arms reduction in Europe, and so forth. This means that the bulk of the work and the main difficulties still lie ahead.

The positive changes and tendencies are self-evident. But they are still far from becoming irreversible. How much more effort will be needed on both sides to ensure that the shoots of trust which have been produced with such difficulty grow tall and strong. We must not forget how often in postwar years "ups" in Soviet-American relations have been followed by "downs," how often disillusionment has replaced hope and lack of restraint has replaced moderation. Only steady, stable relations create an atmosphere in which it is possible to resolve complex, important issues. Therefore both sides will have to adjust the mechanism of collaboration in such a way as to ensure that it functions uninterruptedly and at a good speed. People in the Soviet Union are by no means flattering themselves on what has been achieved. They are aware that there are great and powerful forces in the United States which have more than once hampered and even blocked progress in the development of relations with the USSR and which clearly do not like the very idea of the improvement of these relations.

On the eve of the Moscow summit a joint report of a group of prominent Soviet and U.S. experts on foreign policy problems has been published. The report reaches the following conclusions: Both countries "are on the threshold of historic opportunities for substantial and mutually advantageous changes in their relations." The most promising path to the achievement of stable coexistence is the "phased demilitarization" of rivalry, restraint, cooperation, and awareness of common interests in the sphere of security policy and the settlement of regional conflicts.

These recommendations are feasible if both sides are consistently guided by the new political thinking.

U.S. Senate Clears Way for INF Pact Approval

LD2705081688 Moscow TASS in English 0741 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Washington May 27 TASS—TASS correspondent Oleg Polyakovskiy reports:

The U.S. Senate has cleared the way for approval of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles (INF).

The Senate leaders of Thursday worked out a compromise version of an amendment to a resolution of ratification, through which the upper house of the U.S. Congress in accordance with the U.S. Constitution would give the President advice and consent to ratify the treaty.

The amendment, officially sponsored by Robert Byrd, the leader of the Democratic majority in the Senate, proclaims that no new administration may reinterpret the INF Treaty without Senate approval. The amendment is the direct consequence of the administration's attempt at a "broad interpretation" of the 1972 Soviet-U.S. ABM Treaty in order to implement the "Star Wars" programme unimpededly.

Robert Byrd pointed out that the compromise version of the amendment was to explain and strengthen the Senate role in interpretation of the INF Treaty.

The discussion of the amendment was started after a handful of conservative Republicans led by Senator Jesse Helms on Wednesday had to abandon their tactics of parliamentary obstruction. For a week the conservatives were busy imposing a discussion of killer amendments upon the Senate for the purpose of taking the kernel out of the present text of the treaty and returning it to the negotiating table. After all killer amendments were turned down one after another by an overwhelming majority of votes, Jesse Helms conceded on Wednesday that he and his allies suffered a setback.

As far as the ABM Treaty and the 'Star Wars' are concerned, the Democratic senators hope that in their further work in this field they will be able to rely on the present amendment as a precedent.

Besides, a judicial precedent was also established when the federal judge of Washington, while examining quite a different treaty, ruled that international agreements and their interpretation at the moment of ratification should be binding for the Executive Branch.

Kornilov on Discussion of Humanitarian Issues

LD2605152388 Moscow TASS in English 1504 GMT 26 May 88

["For Business-Like Dialogue"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—By TASS political news analyst Yuriy Kornilov:

The world was told many times that in discussing any problems, including humanitarian ones, there can be no fruitful dialogue if one of the sides assumes the posture of a certain "universal mentor" and tries to lecture others on the ways of the world. And now there is progress: "The United States is prepared for useful exchanges." This remark, regarding democracy and human rights, was made by the U.S. President.

The President's statement made on May 24 on the Worldnet TV Network can be only welcomed, especially if it will be backed in practice by a truly useful, business-like exchange of opinions. So far, unfortunately, it is lacking. What is more: Even today, on the eve of the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting, one hears statements and speeches from Washington in a different, old strain. On the one hand, patently self-advertising attempts are being made to portray the United States, without any grounds whatsoever, as a sort of "stronghold of democracy," as nearly the only advocate of the Helsinki accords. On the other hand, a number of pronouncements and speeches by American leaders and the press on this subject remains confrontational, oriented on interference in our internal affairs: Demands continue to be made, strings attached and claims laid....

The reason behind this seems to be obvious. The new peace initiatives and the signing of the Soviet-U.S. INF Treaty knocked out of the hands of the "sovietologists" their favourite trump card about the mythical Soviet threat, while the Soviet drive for restructuring is delivering one strike after another at the outdated stereotypes on the subject of "secretiveness" and the "undemocratic nature" of Soviet society. Perestroyka will lead to opening up the Soviet society, 66 percent of the Americans polled in the United States believe. The growing interest and sympathies towards our country do not seem to suit everybody. Consequently, there are people who are seeking ways of scoring "propaganda points" by either teaching others how to live by American rules, which happened on more than one occasion, or, for the lack of anything better, by playing the old, worn-out propaganda gramophone record....

Would it not be better if they in Washington take a critical look at themselves, do not fence themselves off from the experience of others, and are open to understanding and respect for the customs of others, a different way of thinking, different political systems? Is it not high time indeed, to realise once and for all the irrefutable fact that the Soviet and U.S. societies have different values, to abandon attempts to impose one's own ways and views of what is good and bad....

On May 11, Soviet, U.S. and Finnish schoolchildren met with Mikhail Gorbachev in the Kremlin and passed to him a message in which they support the efforts of the two leaders to establish peaceful constructive relations between the Soviet Union and the United States. Schoolchildren hold largely different views, but they managed to elaborate a common programme. "This is a good example for politicians," Mikhail Gorbachev told the young envoys. "No matter what differences and fundamental contradictions exist in the world to today, it is necessary to establish what unites people." Admittedly, if the American side holds on to the same approach, including the humanitarian sphere, at the Moscow meeting—its success will be ensured....

Ex-Nazis Helped Shape U.S. Policy on USSR

PM2605093188 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 25 May 88 First Edition p 5

[V. Kikilo "Rejoinder": "Influenced by the Nazis"]

[Text] New York—The last salvoes of World War II were still ringing out when the U.S. secret services began an operation to transport Nazi criminals to the United States. They were taken out in groups or singly, in army transports and by devious means through third countries. In all, 10,000 Hitlerites were shipped across the ocean. People there were expecting them and needed them—the U.S. Government hoped to use the experience that these people had accumulated in the service of anticommunism. A TASS correspondent in New York reports to SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA that the book "Retaliatory Strike. U.S. Recruitment of Nazis and Their Influence on the 'Cold War,'" which has just been published here, mentions this.

How could a country that had taken part in the anti-Hitler coalition have become a reliable refuge for Nazis? The author of the book, U.S. journalist Christopher Simpson, answered this question in an interview with NBC television as follows: "By the end of the war anti-Sovietism had come to the fore in U.S foreign policy. It was the main justification for the secret operation carried out under the leadership of Allen Dulles, the notorious CIA chief."

The use that Washington made of the scientists from the Third Reich, who made a considerable contribution to the U.S. rocket program, is well known. However, the government's use of Nazi psychological warfare experts and Abwehr experts in carrying out so-called "semimilitary" operations and organizing sabotage and assassinations was a more important aspect of the operation, and it is to this that Simpson's book is devoted. According to Simpson, during the "cold war," the makers of U.S foreign policy vis-a-vis the USSR "relied 70 percent on intelligence information" supplied by these experts.

Now, looking back, C. Simpson stressed, we can see what kind of information was supplied by the Nazis. For instance, they systematically overstated the numerical strength of the Soviet Army and imputed aggressive intentions and plans to the USSR. One of the results of this program was that the United States steered a profoundly erroneous and hostile course with regard to its ally of yesteryear. As for the moral aspect of the case, the fact is that in using the services of killers the United States ignored and brushed aside their bloody criminal past, violating the Potsdam agreement signed by the U.S. President.

Decision on Alleged War Criminal Reported

PM2605100188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 May 88 Second Edition p 6

[TASS Report under general heading "Planet's 24 Hours"]

[Text] The U.S. Department of Justice adopted a decision Monday on the deportation from the United States of Vladimir Samarin (Sokolov)—a participator in many crimes committed by the German fascists on the Soviet Union's territory during the war. In 1986 a U.S. district court deprived Sokolov of U.S. citizenship on the grounds that on entering the country he had concealed his Nazi past. The U.S. Supreme Court recently refused to examine an appeal on the case.

U.S. House of Representatives Endorses Aid Bill

LD2605223888 Moscow TASS in English 2108 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Washington May 26 TASS—The U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday endorsed in a 328-90 vote the bill on foreign military and economic aid for the fiscal 1989 to the tune of 14.3 billion dollars. Out of this sum, 5.8 billion dollars are set aside for the military aid to various countries.

According to AP news agency, the sum total endorsed by the house is 8 million dollars less than the administration requested, but exceeds the foreign military and economic aid this year by 709 million dollars. As last year, a considerable part of this aid, three billion dollars, is intended for Israel. Pakistan will receive 460 million dollars. In Central America countries to benefit most from American aid are [El] Salvador (280 million dollars) and Honduras (145 million dollars).

The bill was sent for consideration by the Senate.

Aid to Contras Reported

LD2705065288 Moscow TASS in English 0644 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Washington May 27 TASS—TASS correspondent Aleksey Berezhkov reports:

The U.S. House of Representatives voted on Thursday against the use of CIA's money for rendering military aid to Nicaraguan contras.

By 214 votes against 190 the legislators declined Republican Congressman Henry Hyde's amendment to the bill on appropriations for U.S. intelligence operations in the next fiscal year. The amendment called for lifting the ban on the use of money from the CIA's secret funds for the purchase and delivery of arms to the armed opposition in Nicaragua. The ban was introduced by Congress in 1983, when the public learned about facts on the CIA's bloody role in the undeclared war against the Sandinist Government. The contras are now receiving from the United States the so-called "humanitarian aid" of 17.7 million dollars, which was approved by Congress late in March.

Meanwhile the supporters of the contras, to all appearances, are not going to lay down arms. A group of legislators announced the intention to launch in the near future a campaign aimed at pushing through at the Capitol Hill a new package of military aid to the Nicaraguan opposition.

VOA Glasnost Expectations Viewed

PM2605113588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 May 88 Second Edition p 6

[Article by G. Vasilyev under the "'D' (Disinformation) Bomb" rubric: "Whose Voice Is It?"]

[Text] I put these words in the headline although at first glance there is no justification for this question. The radio station which we are to talk about again is called "Voice of America." Who does not know it? It broadcasts from Washington to the whole world. It propagandizes U.S. policy, the "American way of life," and spreads official U.S. ideology in the boundless airspace. Nonetheless the question does arise. Surely what listeners found out recently from a 25-minute VOA program does not reflect the viewpoint of that country and its people?

The subject of the broadcast in question was formulated as follows: "On the Soviet Union's dissemination of disinformation in the world." It stated that in connection with restructuring and glasnost in the USSR "we must expect the appearance of more subtle disinformation with regard to the United States." As you can see, this time it is not a question of what exists in our country and what displeases the Washington "teachers of life" but of what will be, what "must be expected" with a shudder of anticipation. On hearing this you want to ask: Have the radio station workers consulted with astrologers? Or perhaps they have turned to the services of seers—the chiromancers of whom there are so many in America today? What we have here is the old, pernicious, approach, another attempt to resurrect the "image of the enemy," to persuade Americans that the Soviet Union's sole occupation is to initiate intrigues to undermine America's positions.

Where do the oracles from the Washington radio station see the new dangers threatening the United States? "One of the USSR's main propaganda campaigns," the broadcast stated, "is the Soviet claim that nuclear weapons cannot be used and that if they are used this will lead to an end to life on the planet, but the USSR itself does not believe that." Wait a minute, did the leaders of the two countries not officially formulate in Geneva the statement that nuclear war is impermissible? As for the second part of the accusation, are the Washington propagandists not seeking to ascribe to us the views of the U.S. rightists who continue to be obsessed with the idea of a "limited nuclear war?" The Soviet Union's principled position—that nuclear war is impermissible since it would mean the destruction of life on our planet—has been confirmed by our entire policy, by all Moscow's peace initiatives and actions in the international arena.

Talks were held in Washington recently on questions of exchange and information [as published] between the USSR and the United States in which USIA leaders and on our side a delegation consisting of workers from party and state organs, the press, and television took part. At the meeting a great deal was said about how it must be made easier for the public to gain a more objective and fuller idea of the two countries' policies and lives and the harmfulness of stereotypes poisoning the peoples' consciousness was acknowledged. Officially VOA is under the control of the USIA. Surely what we have just heard cannot be the practical implementation of the sensible ideas which the U.S. side has also expressed? Which brings us back to the question put at the start of this commentary: "With whose voice is VOA broadcasting?"

Comparison of Korionov Article on Summit

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 24 May carries in its Second Edition on page 5 a version of the Vitaliy Korionov "Viewpoint" article on normalizing the international political climate. This Second Edition PRAVDA report, under the headline "Let's Talk About the Climate," has been compared with the PRAVDA First Edition version published in the 25 May Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, pages 15-16, revealing the following variations:

Page 15:

Column two, paragraph four, line three, the Second Edition version reads: ...over hostility and suspicion. The upcoming elimination... (changing "hatred" to "suspicion")

Page 16:

Column one, paragraph three, line seven, the Second Edition version reads: ...the Atlantic camp. They fear our restructuring. In his recent... (changing "Reactionaries" to "They" and deleting phrase "like the plague")

Same column, paragraph four, last line, the Second Edition version reads: ...nuclear missile age.

There are far more reliable guidelines—realism and a sober consideration of the mutual interests of all states and peoples.

If they are followed, the political climate can be made better and clearer than it is now. (rewording, omitting reference to article in THE WASHINGTON POST).

China

Prospects for Development of Ties 'Bright'

OW2705003688 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0300 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] The Soviet Union holds that it is of great significance that further efforts be made to vigorously develop relations with China. Our position in this regard has been clearly stated in the resolutions of various CPSU congresses and plenary sessions of the CPSU Central Committee, as well as in the speeches given by Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The Soviet people have always believed that developing friendship and good-neighborly relations between the Soviet Union and China not only accords with the objective necessities of the present, but serves to strengthen socialism and peace on earth as well. Our observer Alekseyev writes:

The situation that has existed over the last few years proves that the differences between the Soviet Union and China on some international issues do not prevent them from working together in many fields and developing cooperation on the principle of not infringing upon the interests of any third country and on the basis of equality. The following facts tell us how trade relations have developed vigorously between the Soviet Union and China in the past few years: The volume of trade between the Soviet Union and China increased 10 times between 1982 and 1987. A further 30 percent increase this year has brought the volume of trade to 1.8 billion rubles, or 10.5 billion Renminbi yuan. An important aspect of Soviet-Chinese cooperation is the technical and economic assistance provided by our country to China in building or upgrading 24 large industrial projects. The Soviet Union is also taking part in the construction of three thermal power stations with a combined installed capacity of 3.6 million kilowatts and a coalfield which can produce more than 20 million metric tons of coal a year. All this shows that the speed of [words indistinct] has been quite impressive.

However, the Soviet Union and China both feel that this is only a beginning. There are some important problems that call for joint solutions by our two countries. As CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Gorbachev has pointed out, the prospects are bright for the development of Soviet-Chinese cooperation, for our two countries share a common goal—we both give priority to accelerating social and economic development.

In this connection, I would like to stress the following: For the purpose of implementing large-scale reform in both the Soviet Union and China, our two countries share a pressing need for a peaceful environment. This need is reflected in the foreign policies of both our countries. The Soviet people highly appraise the welcoming attitude adopted by China toward the INF Treaty signed by the Soviet Union and the United States in Washington last December. Your country has called for an early ratification of the treaty on many occasions recently.

As for the differences between the Soviet Union and China, they have obviously narrowed recently. For instance, the issue of Soviet troops dispatched to Afghanistan, to which China has expressed its strong opposition, in reality no longer exists. In my opinion, other (?remaining) problems will also be quickly solved.

Leningrad Factory Fulfills Turbine Order

OW2505152088 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0100 GMT 19 May 88

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, Radio Moscow continues its special program, Taking the Road of Friendship and Cooperation.

The Soviet Union and China signed an agreement for long-term economic and technical cooperation between their two governments in 1985. It includes basic economic cooperation in energy, metallurgy of ferrous and nonferrous metals, machine-building, chemistry, communications and transportation, and coal industries. In accordance with this agreement, the Soviet Union is to assist China in building and renovating 24 plants and in providing various types of equipment for them. The steel pipe, oscillator, [word indistinct] cable, electrical equipment, and [word indistinct] plants in Leningrad take an active role in fulfilling the orders placed by China. Station reporter (Koriochekov) will now describe for us one such factory—the Leningrad Metal Plant:

[Begin (Koriochekov) recording] The Leningrad Metal Plant is one of the largest plants in the Soviet Union making power-generating facilities. Its major products are turbines for thermal, nuclear, and hydro power stations. [passage omitted]

The Leningrad plant produces similar technical equipment in accordance with the orders placed by China's Energy Ministry for many of its power stations. Two turbines have already been delivered to China. According to the contract, Leningrad people have to manufacture a total of 10 such machines for the thermal power stations in (Jiangze), Mudanjiang, and (Huangdao) by 1990. The negotiation for the supply of a 500,000 kw-capacity turbine for the (Yimi) Power Station, which is under construction, and a 800,000 kw-capacity turbine for the (Shuizhong) Power Station is under way. [passage omitted]

Energy is the sector that pioneers the national economic development for every country. The progress in any other sector of the economy is more often than not dependent on its development. Therefore, the Leningrad Metal Plant believes that the prospects for further expansion of labor division and cooperation and of mutually beneficial trade in the field of machine-building for the energy industry between the Soviet Union and China are very broad. [end recording]

Northeast Asia

Japanese Communist Party Plenum Session Opens

LD2705091588 Moscow TASS in English 2244 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 TASS—The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Japan [JCP] opened a regular meeting in the Japanese capital today. Kenji Miyamoto, chairman of the party Central Committee, opened the plenum.

Chairman of the party Central Committee's Presidium, Hiromu Murakami, presented the Presidium's report.

The plenum is considering the effect of the Soviet-American INF Treaty on the international situation and problems of the international movement for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

The plenum will assess the present state of Japanese-American relations and analyse the party's relations with the communist parties in other countries.

Creation of Soviet-Japanese Enterprises Noted

PM2605122988 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 May 88 Morning Edition p 1

[Dispatch by own correspondent S. Agafonov: "USSR-Japan: Trade Deals Are Being Concluded"]

[Text] Tokyo—The creation of joint enterprises is for us a new but very promising matter and is rightly considered as a forward-looking form of foreign economic activity, interest in which is progressing markedly among our foreign partners, including in Japan.

The first Soviet-Japanese enterprise, in Novaya Igirma settlement, Irkutsk Oblast, has already "come on stream" and a number of other projects are being implemented and new deals are being concluded.

The most recent was a multilateral project to develop the Tengiz oilfield in which U.S., Italian, and Japanese companies have been involved. It has been stated that an agreement has been signed in Tokyo on the participation of one of Japan's largest firms, Marubeni, in the creation of a joint enterprise for the production of chemical output, which will produce 100,000 tonnes of polyethylene and polyester and other oil refining products a year. This was announced at a news conference by V.A. Rudnev, general director of the "Soyuzkhimeksport" foreign trade association, who headed the Soviet delegation at the seminar here on the development of Japanese-Soviet ties in the chemical industry field.

This sphere occupies a considerable place in the two countries' trade turnover. A steady growth of exchanges and deals is to be observed in it. Thus, for instance, while in 1986 "Soyuzkhimeksport" signed contracts with Japanese partners for a total of R130 million, since the start of this year it has already signed contracts for R205 million. The figures are impressive, but they are not without flaws: Soviet purchases in Japan are neither more nor less than 12 times Japanese purchases in our country, and the rectification of this substantial imbalance is an urgent task.

Former Prime Minister on Japan-USSR Relations

OW2705001788 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 22 May 88

[Interview with former Japanese Prime Minister Fukuda by unidentified correspondent in Moscow on 20 May—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Correspondent] Mr Fukuda, after attending important talks in Moscow, including the Interaction Council sessions and the meeting with Chairman Gromyko of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, what is your view of the present status and future of USSR-Japan relations?

[Fukuda] When I met with Chairman Gromyko, I said that while the world is on the threshold of spring and is about to feel a warm breeze, there are no signs of this at all in Japanese-Soviet relations. This is regrettable indeed. The two nations should work to improve relations between them by all means. They are neighbors. In addition, the Soviet Union is a superpower. Japan, too, has become a great economic power in the world. There are a great many things on which they can cooperate. Nevertheless, they remain unable to do so. This is regrettable for the interests of the world, too. That is what I said to the chairman. We must work to bring a rapprochement to Japan-USSR relations.

[Correspondent] Only 10 days are left before the USSR-U.S. summit begins in Moscow. What impact do you think the summit will produce on international relations?

[Fukuda] Among other things, I would like to see it at least work out the framework of a 50-percent cut in strategic nuclear arms. [passage omitted]

Results of Soviet-Japanese Poll on Relations

OW2705003388 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 25 May 88

[(Vladimir Bondarikov) commentary]

[Excerpts] SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, a central Soviet newspaper, today published the results of an opinion poll jointly conducted in the Soviet Union and Japan in March by the Japanese newspaper YOMIURI SHIMBUN and the Sociological Research Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences. Commentator (Vladimir Bondarikov), who specializes in international affairs, has noted the following:

Soviet-Japanese joint opinion polls on bilateral relations seem to have become customary. This is a happy development for both sides. [passage omitted]

The results of the latest poll indicate that a majority of people both in the USSR and Japan view the present status of bilateral relations as being average, neither above nor below that level. At the same time, however, it shows that more people in the USSR, Georgia in particular, than in Japan see a positive trend in relations between the two countries. The important thing is that both Soviet and Japanese respondents answered in the affirmative on the need for better relations between the two nations. Some 84 percent of them in the RSFSR, 95.4 percent in the Georgia SSR, and 85.7 percent in Japan agreed with this.

Responses by Soviet and Japanese people to questions about how they view each other are extremely characteristic. The published results indicate that an overwhelming majority of Soviets have a favorable view of the Japanese. In fact, none of them exhibited any antagonism. Meanwhile, 85 percent of the Japanese respondents indicated that they have more or less experienced feelings of friendship toward the Soviet people. This figure is approximately five times that in the Soviet-Japanese opinion poll conducted in February this year.

Respondents in both countries view USSR-Japan relations as being important to the cause of easing world tension. The percentages indicating awareness on this point are roughly the same on both sides.

Regarding the danger of nuclear weapons, responses are similar, but there is a clear difference between their views. For instance, one-fifth of the Soviet respondents think that a nuclear war may break out within the next 5 years, and about half of those polled do not think so. Meanwhile, in Japan, 66 percent do not believe that a nuclear war is possible. At the same time, a majority of respondents in both countries fear the possibility of nuclear disputes [kaku funso], thinking that they could end the life of the earth.

The biggest difference was observed over the possibility of a ban on nuclear testing and a treaty on the total elimination of nuclear arms. Soviet respondents were more optimistic on this point, with more than 50 percent of them feeling agreements are possible. On the other hand, most of the Japanese repondents answered that they do not believe that a ban on nuclear testing or the scuttling of all nuclear arms is possible. This attitude of the Japanese people may perhaps be based on the concept of nuclear deterrence that is widespread in the West—the concept that nuclear arms are necessary as means of deterrence.

In general, the result of the opinion poll serves as a rich source of data in finding ways to strengthen Soviet-Japanese relations.

U.S. Nuclear Clean-Up Crews Present in Japan

LD2705085888 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1700 GMT 26 May 88

[Boris Andrianov commentary, from the "International Diary" program, presented by Igor Surguchev]

[Text] [Surguchev] According to the Japanese newspaper ASAHI, it has obtained information from the international organization Nautilus Pacific Research, based in Washington, on certain Pentagon documents. The documents show that at some U.S. bases in Japan there are special subunits for eliminating the consequences of nuclear catastrophes that may occur as a result of accidents involving mass-destruction weapons. Here is my colleague, Boris Andrianov.

[Andrianov] The information received by ASAHI provides good reason for once again asking the question whether there are nuclear weapons on Japanese territory. A positive answer is prompted involuntarily by the deployment of these special task subunits on U.S. military bases there. Otherwise, it would not occur to anybody to keep a fire brigade in a desert, where there are no fire hazards. It seems that in Japan things are absolutely different in this respect, if the Pentagon has deployed nearly a dozen brigades for putting out nuclear blazes.

Yet Tokyo officials avoid giving a straight answer to the question of whether there are nuclear arms on the Japanese archipelago. They refer only to the three non-nuclear principles, on which the foreign policy of the Land of the Rising Sun is founded. These principles promulgate Japan's commitment to refrain from producing, possessing, or importing nuclear arms, but is this commitment observed? This question has been at the center of the sharpest discussions in the Japanese parliament more than once. The latest took place at the session of the country's supreme legislative body which ended yesterday.

At the session, the opposition demanded that the government give an unequivocal answer on whether these principles remain fundamental for Japan's policy-making and whether it intends at least to hold consultations with Washington on bringing U.S. nuclear weapons onto Japanese territory. Opposition deputies said they would boycott the parliament's work if the head of the cabinet tried to silence the subject. Prime Minister Takeshita was compelled to admit that Japan had a right to such consultations, yet hastened to add immediately that under the current circumstances the government had no intention of making use of this right, owing to the friendly relations with the United States. Clarifications of this sort are hardly convincing. Rather, it resembles an attempt to conceal the true state of affairs.

According to the Japan-U.S. security treaty, Washington has to obtain preliminary consent from Tokyo for deploying nuclear and other advanced weapons on Japanese territory. However, the country's authorities have been repeating for many years that, as no request of this kind has been received, the dangerous cargo has never been brought into Japan. Meanwhile, the Washington administration has been reiterating tirelessly its old view, which maintains that the United States neither confirms nor denies the presence or absence of nuclear weapons aboard its ships.

In this connection, I would like to quote a fairly interesting document, the 1976 report of the U.S. Congressional Committee for Nuclear Energy, which has become known to the public. It says in black and white: The U.S. policies of neither confirming nor denying the presence of nuclear arms and their siting was formulated especially at the request of countries where such arms had been deployed but the governments of which could have gotten themselves in an awkward situation if such deployments had been revealed. This is the convenient solution Washington found to keep secret its machinations with nuclear weapons, and official Tokyo assiduously assists it by turning the non-nuclear principles into a means for cheating the Japanese public. Could one describe this position as honest, especially now when the peoples of the world are coming out for nuclear disarmament?

DPRK Foreign Minister Stops Enroute to Cuba

LD2605103588 Moscow TASS in English 1013 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—Kim Yong-nam, a member of the Central Committee Politbureau of the Workers' Party of Korea, vice-premier of the Administration Council, minister of foreign affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, made a stopover in Moscow on May 24-26 on his way to Cuba.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

SRV Reportedly To Withdraw Troops From Cambodia

To Be Completed in 1990

LD2605112088 Moscow TASS in English 1110 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Hanoi May 26 TASS—Vietnam and Kampuchea have agreed on a withdrawal of 50,000 Vietnamese voluntary troops from Kampuchea this year, which is half of Vietnam's contingent kept in that country. This was officially announced here today.

The withdrawal will take place from June to December of 1988 by land and by sea.

Besides, an agreement has been reached that the Kampuchean side will assume the command over the remaining Vietnamese troops.

The withdrawal of all Vietnamese troops will be completed in 1990.

Communique Issued

LD2605180188 Moscow TASS in English 1701 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Hanoi May 26 TASS—The Governments of Vietnam and Kampuchea reached an arrangement that 50,000 people, or half of the contingent of Vietnamese volunteer troops staying in Kampuchea will be withdrawn in the current year. This was announced today by an official spokesman of the Ministry of National Defense of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and foreign journalists in Hanoi.

A communique by Vietnam's Ministry of National Defense circulated here says that the troops will be withdrawn from June to December of the current year by sea and by the land. Besides that, the Governments of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the People's Republic of Kampuchea agreed that the Vietnamese command of the volunteer forces of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in Kampuchea will also be recalled home in the current year. The remaining volunteers will be placed under the command of the Kampuchean side to be withdrawn in 1990.

Deputy Foreign Minister of Vietnam Tran Quang Co then addressed the press conference. He read out a statement of the Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The document says that the coming withdrawal of so large a contingent of Vietnamese volunteers is another vivid evidence of a steady stabilisation of the situation in Kampuchea, of the strengthening of the republic's armed forces. It confirms the invariable policy of Vietnam that consistently respects independence and sovereignty of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and Vietnam's resolve to complete the troop withdrawal in 1990.

The statement says that the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam wholly supports the proposal of the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea to create a zone of peace along Kampuchean-Thai border and the solution of the question of repatriation of Kampuchean refugees. In this connection the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the People's Republic of Kampuchea agreed that Vietnamese volunteer troops will be pulled back deeper into the Kampuchean territory to a distance of 30 kilometres from the Thai border.

Vietnam is striving for a political settlement of the Kampuchean question and is prepared to withdraw its troops earlier than scheduled if such a settlement is achieved, the document says. Vietnam welcomes any efforts at promoting the process of negotiations to resolve the Kampuchean problem by political means and turn South-East Asia into a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality. The Pol Pot criminals pose the main obstacle to the political settlement. They should be denied any assistance and outside support.

Rogachev Comments on Decision

LD2605154488 Moscow TASS in English 1644 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—"The Soviet Union supports the new constructive initiatives announced today by the Governments of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the People's Republic of Kampuchea", Deputy USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs Igor Rogachev told a press briefing here today. The briefing was devoted to questions of the situation in Indo-China and in the Asia-Pacific region as a whole.

The decisions of the governments of the two countries provide for the withdrawal of 50,000 Vietnamese volunteers from Kampuchea in 1988, or a half of the total. The command of the Vietnamese volunteer troops in Kampuchea will also be moved from Kampuchea to Vietnam. The day-to-day command of the remaining Vietnamese units in Kampuchea is being handed over to the command of the People's Revolutionary Army of Kampuchea. Parallel with this it is intended this year to withdraw units of the Vietnamese People's Army thirty kilometres away from the Kampuchean-Thai border.

Igor Rogachev characterised these decisions as "new constructive initiatives of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the People's Republic of Kampuchea directed at resolving the conflict situation around Kampuchea". At the same time he noted that the question of completing the withdrawal of the Vietnamese volunteer forces by the year 1990 "is not, as some are trying to portray it, an obstacle to resolving the Kampuchean problem". Today's news from Indo-China confirm the resolve and sincerity of intention of the Vietnamese and Kampuchean leadership to implement the decision on the complete withdrawal of troops.

The new initiative of Vietnam and Kampuchea facilitates the creation of favourable conditions for searching for mutually acceptable accords with Thailand. "The withdrawal of Vietnamese units to a distance of 30 kilometres from the Kampuchean-Thai border and other measures should remove Thailand's apprehensions about a 'threat' supposedly posed to it by Vietnam", Igor Rogachev said.

The deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR recalled the March 1, 1983 statement by the PRC Foreign Ministry. It said in part that if Vietnam effected a partial withdrawal of its troops from Kampuchea China would be prepared to open talks with the Vietnamese side on the normalisation of relations. "As to the USSR, we would welcome direct talks between Beijing and Hanoi", Igor Rogachev said. "We in the Soviet Union fully support and welcome the important act of the Governments of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and believe that it opens a direct road to quickly settling the situation around Kampuchea and creating conditions for implementing the idea of turning Southeast Asia into a zone of peace".

First-Ever Soviet Guest Addresses Pacific Forum

PM2405104388 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 May 88 First Edition p 1

[Own correspondent I. Latyshev dispatch: "Osaka Forum"]

[Text] Tokyo, May—The stepped-up activity of organizations and forums attended by representatives of Pacific countries in the last few years reflects these countries' interest in strengthening and expanding their economic ties. A prominent role has been acquired in particular by the Pacific Countries' Economic Cooperation Conference [PECC], whose sessions are attended by representatives of governments, business circles, and the scientific community.

The sixth PECC session sat 18-20 May in Osaka. The most acute problems of the Pacific region's economic life were discussed.

For the first time since the formation of the PECC, the participants in its sixth session were addressed by a Soviet representative in the capacity of guest speaker—Academician Ye. Primakov, chairman of the Soviet National Committee for Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation. He emphasized the Soviet Union's readiness to participate in the international division of labor in this region, drawing the attention of those present to the enormous importance of the restructuring now under way in our country, which is reflected in a new approach to the process of economic alignment among Pacific countries.

Further Reportage on Thai Prime Minister's Visit

Tours Kiev 18 May

AU2605074788 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 19 May 88 p 1

[RATAU report: "The Ukraine Hosts Thailand's Prime Minister"]

[Text] While in our country at the invitation of the Soviet Government, Prem Tinsulanon, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, arrived in the Ukraine's capital city on 18 May.

At Borispol Airport, adorned with flags of the Kingdom of Thailand, the USSR, and the Ukrainian SSR, he was welcomed at the gangway by V.A. Masol, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and Council of Ministers chairman; V.G. Urchukin, Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers deputy chairman; K.P. Boyko, affairs administrator of the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers; V.A. Kravets, Ukrainian SSR minister of foreign affairs; V.A. Zgurskiy, Kiev Gorispolkom chairman; and other officials.

B.L. Tolstykh, USSR Council of Ministers deputy chairman and chairman of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, and A.I. Valkov, USSR ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand, arrived in Kiev with the visitor. P. Rotchanapruk, ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the USSR, also arrived in the Ukraine's capital city. The flags of the Kingdom of Thailand, the USSR, and the Ukrainian SSR were hoisted, and welcome slogans were displayed in Thai, Russian, and Ukrainian in the streets and in the squares along which the motorcade proceeded accompanied by motorcyclists.

Visits Kiev Supreme Soviet

AU2605133288 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 20 May 88 p 1

[RATAU report: "A Conversation in the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium"]

[Text] On 19 May V.S. Shevchenko, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and Supreme Soviet Presidium chairman, met with Prem Tinsulanon, prime minister of Thailand.

During a conversation, V.S. Shevchenko noted that the high-level delegation was visiting the Soviet Union in very interesting times, when an active renewal of society had begun in the USSR, when its democratization was deepening, when the economy was strengthening, and when preparations were in progress for the all-union party conference. It was emphasized that these processes were also developing in the Ukraine, one of the largest union republics. Restructuring has also affected our links with foreign countries; it leads to the intensification of contacts both along state and parliamentary lines. The meetings and talks held by you in Moscow, as well as the agreements signed, V.S. Shevchenko said, undoubtedly opened up new possibilities for further developing cooperation on a mutually beneficial basis. Such contacts will expand if all world peoples even more actively wage the struggle for disarmament and a nuclear-free peace.

The Supreme Soviet Presidium chairman briefed the guest on the activity of the republic's supreme organ of state power.

No matter how small our developing Thailand is, the visitor said, we are proud of having sat at the negotiating table next to a state as huge as the Soviet Union in order to settle useful and important problems, and of having met in Moscow your country's officials, who rank among the world leaders. The Thai people, he continued, are prepared to do their utmost for the benefit of peace throughout the world.

Present at the meeting were: B.L. Tolstykh, USSR Council of Ministers deputy chairman; V.G. Urchukin, Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers deputy chairman; N.G. Khomenko, Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium secretary; V.A. Kravets, Ukrainian SSR minister of foreign affairs; A.I. Valkov, USSR ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand; and P. Rotchanaphruk, ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the USSR.

Meets With Ukrainian Officials

AU2605135388 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 20 May 88 p 1

[RATAU report: "A Conversation in the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers"]

[Text] On 19 May V.A. Masol, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and Council of Ministers chairman, received Prem Tinsulanon, prime minister of Thailand, who arrived in Kiev while on an official visit to the Soviet Union.

During a conversation, V.A. Masol briefed the head of the Thai delegation on the Republic's economic and scientific potential and touched upon the training of specialists in the national economy, including for developing countries. The visitor's attention was then drawn to the processes of renewal which have opened up new chances for mutually beneficial cooperation between countries with different social systems. V.A. Masol emphasized that the Ukraine's people, like all Soviet people, approved and supported restructuring and were working with great interest in this regard. Evidence of this can be seen in the rising growth rates of production and other economic indicators. It was also pointed out that the restructuring of the Republic's management apparatus was now close to completion.

The prime minister of Thailand pointed out that he was satisfied with the results of his visit to the USSR. The country's leaders, he said, gave us a frank account of the changes in political and economic life. And we consider that the country has made a good start on changes, both domestically and on the international plane. We were given a friendly reception and met smiling people in Kiev, a very ancient city about which we have heard a great deal.

The visitor gave an account of his country and the major lines of its economic development, particularly in the agrarian sector, in light industry, and in tourism.

It was noted on both sides that international security and the settlement of socioeconomic problems were closely linked and that they had to be settled by all countries, both large and small.

Participating in the conversation were: B.L. Tolstykh, USSR Council of Ministers deputy chairman; V.G. Urchukin, Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers deputy chairman; K.P. Boyko, affairs administrator of the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers; V.A. Kravets, Ukrainian SSR minister of foreign affairs; V.A. Zgurskiy, Kiev Gorispolkom chairman; and V.D. Durdinets, Ukrainian SSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs.

The conversation was attended by A.I. Valkov, USSR ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand, and P. Rotchanaphruk, ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the USSR.

Departs Kiev 20 May

AU2705125688 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 21 May 88 p 1

[RATAU report: "The Thailand Prime Minister's Visit"]

[Text] The Thai delegation is satisfied with its trip to the Soviet Union. We have also seen and learned a great deal in the Ukraine. My government is interested in developing relations with the USSR in various sectors, Prem Tinsulanon, prime minister of Thailand, said, having spent 3 days in the Ukraine's capital city. The guest had talks in the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and Council of Ministers. While touring the city, the prime minister and the persons accompanying him familiarized themselves with Kiev projects and places of historical and architectural interest.

In the Park of Eternal Glory, Prem Prem Tinsulanon laid a wreath at the Grave of the Unknown Soldier. During the ceremony, the honor guard was mounted and the state anthems of Thailand, the USSR, and the Ukrainian SSR were played. With a minute of silence, the guest paid tribute to the memory of Soviet soldiers who laid down their lives in the battles for their homeland's honor and independence, to save the peoples of Europe from Hitlerite slavery. He inspected the "Ukrainian State Museum of the History of the Great Patriotic War 1941-45" memorial complex.

In honor of the prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, the Ukrainian SSR Government gave a dinner in Maryinskiy Palace. During the dinner, V.A. Masol, the republic's Council of Ministers chairman, and Prem Tinsulanon exchanged toasts.

On 20 May the prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand left Kiev for Leningrad.

At Borispol Airport, with the state flags of the Kingdom of Thailand, the USSR, and the Ukrainian SSR flying, he was seen off by V.A. Masol, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and Council of Ministers chairman; V.G. Urchukin, Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers deputy chairman; K.P. Boyko, affairs administrator in the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers; V.A. Kravets, Ukrainian SSR minister of foreign affairs; V.V. Durdinets, Ukrainian SSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs; and other officials.

The party departing Kiev also included B.L. Tolstykh, USSR Council of Ministers deputy chairman, and A.I. Valkov, USSR ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand, both accompanying the visitor on the tour; and P. Rotchanaphruk, ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the USSR.

Commentary on Visit Results

BK2705101988 Moscow in Thai to Thailand 1100 GMT 25 May 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Considering the response from foreign countries, the outcome of the Thai prime minister's visit to the Soviet Union has generated wide interest in the Southeast Asian region. The issues discussed by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Thai Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon did not pertain only to bilateral relations. Both sides also discussed problems that have a direct impact on the Southeast Asian political situation.

It can be confirmed with satisfaction that the two leaders were able to discuss various problems in a good manner. The Soviet side sees it as a good sign, showing that its new political thinking is making an impact on world politics. It is impossible for both sides to share the same view on all issues because the USSR and Thailand, as well as other ASEAN members, have different social systems and principles. However, no matter what their differences, these are less important than their cohesiveness in strengthening stability and peace in the world. The joint Soviet-Thai communique shows that both sides have made great efforts to achieve such a goal. Both sides have implemented foreign policies aimed at opposing the arms race and finding ways to settle regional conflicts through peaceful means.

As a result, Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon welcomed the signing of the treaty on intermediate-range nuclear forces by the USSR and the United States, which paves the way for positive changes in world politics. The Thai side expressed the hope that the forthcoming Soviet-U.S. summit in Moscow would help achieve further progress in disarmament and arms control efforts.

Comments from various sources say that all this contributes to stability in Southeast Asia. The analysis of all problems as a whole reflects the new Soviet attitude towards politics in Asia and the Pacific. Mikhail Gorbachev has expressed this attitude in his Vladivostok statement and in his interview with the Indonesian paper MERDEKA.

In fact, it is a wide-ranging plan to maintain international stability and cooperation, reduce military confrontation, and help solve conflicts in this region. The USSR and ASEAN share understanding on various issues. Recently, they agreed with the proposed establishment of a nuclear-free zone in Southeast Asia. It is known that ASEAN is working to achieve such a wish. The Soviet-Thai talks in Moscow also show that consultations on regional problems are made on this basis. Both sides agreed that regional conflicts should be solved only through peaceful means.

The joint Thai-Soviet communique stresses that the recent signing of the Geneva accords on Afghanistan could create a positive precedence for resolving other regional issues. There is a question whether the settlement of the Afghan problem can serve as an example in solving the Cambodian problem, which is an especially urgent issue for Southeast Asia.

According to the comments in Thailand, the Cambodian problem has both similarities and differences with the Afghan problem. So, the methods used in solving the Afghan problem may not be applied in resolving the Cambodian problem. It is normal for each country to have its own identity, special characteristics, and different culture. Therefore, different methods are used to solve problems. However, the most important point is that the Cambodian problem can be settled only through political means by the Cambodian people themselves and with the participation of all sides concerned. The main point is to balance the interests. In this way, it is believed that the Moscow talks helped to better clear up the future for the settlement of the Cambodian problem. The joint communique reiterates that both sides will continue to consult on this matter.

The Thai-Soviet talks once again confirm the appropriateness and real benefits of constructive talks in developing bilateral relations and improving the global political atmosphere. Mikhail Gorbachev, in his welcome speech for Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon, spoke highly of ASEAN's independent role in making decisions on international and regional problems. The Soviet leader said that the USSR wishes to promote good relations with all ASEAN countries and is sincere in its future concrete cooperation with ASEAN.

Near East & South Asia

Moscow-Kabul Telebridge Interviews Najibullah

LD2605231488 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1909 GMT 26 May 88

[Moscow-Kabul Telebridge interview with Afghan President Najibullah by Soviet journalists Leonid Abramovich Zolotarevskiy of Soviet television; Veniamin Alekseyevich Shurygin of PRAVDA; and Aleksandr Yevgeniy Bovin of IZVESTIYA; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Zolotarevskiy] Hello, comrades. The Kabul-Moscow space telebridge gives us Soviet journalists the opportunity today to talk to the president of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Esteemed Comrade President, the interest that Soviet people show in the events taking place in your country is understandable. It is all the more understandable now that the solution of many of the complicated problems around Afghanistan and inside Afghanistan has entered the phase of practical action. The Geneva agreements, the fruit of 6 years of persistent effort, are being implemented, and many new questions arise in connection with this. So we decided to ask you for an interview. We also decided to use the space telebridge as the most convenient way of conducting such an interview.

Allow me to introduce my colleagues to you. Veniamin Shurygin represents the newspaper PRAVDA, and Aleksandr Bovin is from IZVESTIYA. I represent Soviet television. If you have no objection, we will begin the interview. Go ahead, Veniamin Alekseyevich.

[Shurygin] How do you assess the progress made with carrying out the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan?

[Najibullah, speaking in vernacular fading into Russian translation] As far as the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union are concerned, our two countries are sincerely and courageously discharging the obligations that they accepted. In the Republic of Afghanistan, all the necessary conditions have been created for the voluntary and free return of refugees, both individually and en masse. May 15, 1988 saw the start of the return of the limited contingent of Soviet troops to their peace-loving motherland. The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is giving the necessary assistance to the activities of the group of UN observers who are monitoring the fulfillment of the Geneva agreements.

Unfortunately, regardless of the legitimate expectations of the Afghan people and the world community, Pakistan is not helping the fulfillment of the agreements that have been reached. On the territory of that country, as before, the camps and military bases of the intransigent opposition continue to exist and operate. The transfer of weapons from Pakistan to Afghanistan has intensified. Foreign advisers and the Pakistani authorities are providing help to the reactionary opposition regarding the siting of ammunition dumps and the drawing up of plans for military operations. The propaganda campaign directed against our country is growing in scale. Since 15 May—that is, since the day on which the Geneva agreements came into force—the Afghan authorities have already handed over four notes of protest to the official UN representatives, indicating specific instances of violation of the agreements. Nevertheless, we think that with the help of the mechanism for monitoring implementation of the agreements, and given the firm determination of the world community, it is possible to make Pakistan desist from violating the existing agreements.

[Bovin] Comrade President, would you be so kind as to tell us what you think are the prospects for creating a coalition government? How is it thought of—as provisional or permanent? Are there any indications about the timetable for setting it up? [Najibullah] I can name not approximate, but specific times. In 3 days the National Council, elected in accordance with the Constitution of Afghanistan, will assemble for its first meeting. At that meeting, the new government will receive a vote of confidence. We regard that government as a coalition because it includes representatives of all the existing parties and public groups, including those occupying neutral positions, and authoritative representatives and officials of earlier regimes. Apart from that, government posts have been reserved for the opposition—key posts, moreover. Thus, opposition representatives can, at any time, take up these posts and take part in the work of government.

As for the second part of your question, it must be said that the National Council will give a vote of confidence to a government that will operate on a permanent basis.

[Zolotarevskiy] Comrade President, it seems to me that the following question is directly linked to what you have just said. Do you consider it possible to develop, to develop positively, the process of national reconciliation, bearing in mind that the opposition maintains an invariably negative attitude toward the Geneva agreements?

[Najibullah] Undoubtedly. Such a development of events is possible because all aspects of the process are directly interconnected. The Geneva agreements would create a favorable basis for accelerating the process of national reconciliation. Within the ranks of the opposition, the disagreements are growing stronger, and there is an increasing desire to end the senseless war. The people are tired of war. That truth is already understood by those representatives of the opposition who think rationally. As for the intransigent members of the opposition, who see the continuation of the bloodshed as a way of attaining their selfish objectives, their actions evoke no response within broad sections of the Afghan people. We are convinced that, as the Geneva agreements are conscientiously and effectively implemented, so the potential of the armed opposition will steadily fall.

[Shurygin] In connection with this it would be interesting to know if there have been any changes in the position of the Alliance of the Seven toward cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan.

[Najibullah] Yes, a certain amount of progress has taken place in this direction. However, it is still too early to say that cooperation has already moved onto a clearly expressed practical plane. We are patient and, as our popular saying goes, it takes time to prepare tasty fruit.

[Bovin] If weapons continue to be supplied to the opposition's armed forces from abroad, if the position of the Iranian leadership remains unchanged, do you think that the Afghan armed forces will be able to carry out their current and future tasks?

[Najibullah] One of the Geneva documents is an Afghan-Pakistani agreement on principles of mutual relations and in particular on noninterference and on renouncing intervention. We think the sides which signed the document should fulfill the obligations they have undertaken. We also hope that the Government of Iran, too, will eventually take up a constructive position.

Speaking of the armed forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, I would like to stress that they are equipped with modern weapons and military equipment. They have solid experience in conducting combat operations and enjoy extensive support among the people. There is no doubt that our armed forces are capable of carrying out their tasks given the conditions of the cessation of external armed interference.

[Zolotarevskiy] The next question, Comrade President, is this: Will the Afghan Government be able to guarantee the security of Soviet specialists working in the country and diplomats after the final withdrawal of the Soviet troop contingent from the country?

[Najibullah] Undoubtedly, it can. We are doing everything to ensure the safety of our friends and also, in accordance with international agreements, the safety of all diplomatic representations.

[Shurygin] In what ways could the former king of Afghanistan, Zahir Shah, possibly participate in implementing the program of national reconciliation?

[Najibullah] There are various ways in which the former king could participate in implementing the policy of national reconciliation, from giving support to this course internationally to directly participating in the practical work here in Afghanistan. We are convinced that our people will respect such actions by the former king.

[Zolotarevskiy] Comrade President, in your reply to the first question you mentioned the problem of refugees. This is a rather acute problem. How do you intend to resolve it in practice?

[Najibullah] The Government of Afghanistan is ready to create all conditions for the return of our fellow countrymen to their homeland as intended by the Geneva accords. To date, over 130,000 people have returned to the country. Despite financial difficulties, we are allocating sufficient funds to ensure the normal life of returning refugees. We intend to continue to seek out additional internal resources for this aim.

Apart from this, the USSR and other socialist countries are helping us. We also count on help from the office of the UN high commissioner for refugees and other international organizations.

[Zolotarevskiy] Aleksandr Yevgenyevich, please.

[Bovin] Could you tell us please, what do you think are the prospects for repairing Afghanistan's economy, repairing all the damage caused by the war? In your opinion, what could the international public, the friends of Afghanistan, and other countries do here?

[Najibullah] First of all, I would like to note that as a result of the undeclared war, the country's economy has been vastly harmed. Thousands of schools, irrigation systems, housing and hundreds of kilometers of roads have been destroyed. The total damage amounts to billions of afghanis. Inspite of this, the country has adopted and is implementing a plan for socioeconomic development for the period up to 1990. We are being given great help in the restoration and development of the national economy by the USSR and other socialist countries. A certain amount of aid is also coming in from international organizations, including the United Nations. We are interested in further expanding and consolidating mutually advantageous cooperation on bilateral and multilateral bases with all countries for the good of the development of the national economy of a free and independent Afghanistan.

[Shurygin] It would be interesting to hear what you think of the role of the USSR and the United States as guarantors of the implementation of the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan.

[Najibullah] The USSR and the United States played a major role in the successful conclusion of the Geneva talks. The Afghan people and Government well understand that the complete implementation of the Geneva accords is possible under conditions of strict fulfillment by the guarantor states of the obligations they have undertaken.

The USSR is convincingly demonstrating to the whole world its consistency and sincerity in observing the letter and the spirit of the Geneva documents. This is being witnessed by the group of UN observers and the many representatives of the mass media of the whole world. We hope that the United States, too, will conscientiously fulfill its obligations as a guarantor of the accords.

[Bovin] Would you be so kind as to answer this last question, Comrade President. Could you tell Soviet viewers a little about yourself—where you studied, what sort of family you have, what you do in your spare time away from work, what your interests are, a few words about yourself.

[Zolotarevskiy] If such spare time exists.

[Bovin] Of course, if such spare time exists.

[Najibullah] It is always difficult to talk about oneself and one's work, particularly if one is a politician, but as you have asked the question, I will give a brief reply.

I will soon be 42 years old. I have three small children. By education I am a doctor, therefore, I would allow myself, to a certain extent, to compare the work of a politician with the work of a doctor, in the sense that a politician must also make a correct diagnosis and find correct methods and means to treat social ills. All of my life and work have been devoted to serving the people of Afghanistan, who are undergoing a difficult and dramatic period of their history.

Many thanks to you. Please accept my sincere gratitude and respect for you, Soviet journalists who are honorably fulfilling your humane duty in conditions of glasnost and restructuring. I wish you happiness and great success.

[Zolotarevskiy] Thank you very much, Comrade President. Allow me to wish you good health and successful activity in the post of head of the Afghan state. Allow me to wish the peoples of your country a peaceful and calm life in an independent, nonaligned and revitalized Afghanistan. Once again, thank you.

Commanders Discuss Forces in Afghanistan

Gromov Interview

AU2605124388 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 20 May 88 p 4

[Report by Valeri Naydenov, BTA correspondent in Kabul: "The Road Home, the Road to Peace", containing an interview with Lieutenant General Boris Gromov, "commander of the limited contingent of Soviet troops in Afghanistan"; date and place of interview not given]

[Text] Kabul (by Valeri Naydenov, BTA correspondent)—Within 3 days Colonel Yuriy Starov's brigade crossed the road from Jalalabad through Kabul and Salang toward the bridge over the Amu Darya river on the Afghanistan border. The welcoming ceremony turned into a real celebration. The farewell in all Afghan towns was festive as well. People covered the soldiers with flowers and presented them with fruit. I even saw a little boy who managed to throw a large melon on a tank....

This is actually the second farewell of this kind that I have had an opportunity to observe. The first was in October 1986 when, as a sign of good will, the Soviet Government withdrew six regiments of the limited contingent of USSR troops from Afghanistan. At that time this looked like a symbolic gesture, as an appeal to common sense. This was followed by prolonged, persevering efforts for the sake of peace which ended with the Geneva agreements at the beginning of spring 1988—providing great hope and opportunities for peace in this long-suffering country.

Many things have changed within the last 1 and 1/2 years. The Afghan Government managed to expand its social base, thus winning the support of numerous and different forces, and people's strata. This shows that the Afghan Government is ready to engage in all kinds of compromises to give peace to its own people. It is sufficient to point out that in July 1987 the Afghan Government proposed 28 ministerial posts and positions as chairmen of state committees to the opposition. The majority of armed groups preferred to put down their arms, while others agreed to engage in negotiations. Last week, when I asked President Najibullah to describe the greatest achievement of the national reconciliation policy, he answered: "The chief result is our people's support."

The behavior of the opposition has changed as well. Within only 1 year it was supplied with such a large amount of modern weapons, that it began to sell them to customers from third countries. Taking advantage of the last hours before the Geneva agreements came into effect, endless caravans carrying the latest models of modern arms crossed the Pakistani borders. Parts of the armed gangs are professional mercenaries—they are paid in dollars for every attack and every person they kill, as a result of which peace is by no means to their advantage. This is why they have intensified their actions, particularly since the Geneva agreements. However, they are not engaged in combat operations, but in acts of terrorism. The majority of their victims are innocent civilians, mostly women and children.

In these historic and eventful days, the journalists had the opportunity of having several meetings with Lieutenant General Boris Gromov, commander of the limited contingent of Soviet troops in Afghanistan. He is a relatively young man for his high military rank—only 44 years old—sun-tanned and energetic. Born in Saratov, into a family of professional soldiers, he is a graduate of the Leningrad military school and continued his studies at a military academy. This is his second tour of duty in Afghanistan, where he has been serving as commander of the limited contingent for the last 3 years.

Listening to the tape of my recorded interview with him, I found out that I had managed to ask General Gromov as many as six questions. They were as follows:

[Naydenov] Will the number of Soviet soldiers in Afghanistan be published?

[Gromov] Data on the number of Soviet soldiers who are presently stationed in Afghanistan will be submitted to representatives of the United Nations as soon as possible. They will also be contained in official Soviet documents.

[Naydenov] Can you say something about the timetable of withdrawal?

[Gromov] The timetable will be followed precisely. Over 50 percent of the Soviet troops will be withdrawn from the territory of Afghanistan within the next 3 months. This involves the units of 11 garrisons in 9 provinces. For the time being troops are stationed in 18 garrisons situated in 14 provinces. The withdrawal will be completed on 15 March 1989.

[Naydenov] The armed opposition, taking advantage of U.S. support, announced that it intended to intensify its actions even more. Can this fact influence the timetable of the withdrawal?

[Gromov] The opposition could, of course, have some influence, but not so much as to disrupt the timetable. We have enough forces, means, and possibilities to be able to carry out the program of transferring our troops to USSR territory precisely.

[Naydenov] Is there any cause for concern about the safety of the troops and of Soviet citizens during the withdrawal?

[Gromov] There is no need to be concerned about the safety of our soldiers. As for the Soviet citizens, the majority of them are in Kabul. Their safety is fully guaranteed by the Afghan side.

[Naydenov] News has spread that the opposition has been supplied with super-modern, antitank weapons. Does this not represent an additional threat?

[Gromov] We are always promptly informed about how many and what type of weapons are being delivered by the Western countries. We know that the opposition has recently been supplied with guided antitank rockets. I would like to state that if certain groups should try to use any types of weapons whatsoever, even modern antitank devices, the response will be swift and sure.

[Naydenov] How do you evaluate the combat spirit and the fighting capacity of the Afghan army?

[Gromov] I have no doubt about the fighting capacity of the Afghan armed forces.

[Naydenov] The events of last week confirmed the confidence of the Soviet general. Despite the threats, the rebels did not dare to attack Colonel Yuriy Starov's brigade at any point on their way home. To conceal their weakness they killed a few peaceful civilians with bombs.

There is no doubt that the coming months will be difficult for the Afghan Government—before consenting to enter into negotiations the armed gangs will subject the government's forces to trial. There is no doubt about this fact. Will they be successful? This is what Muhammad Rafi', minister of national defense, has to say on the subject:

"We insist that disputes should not be settled on the battlefield, but through peaceful, political methods. Let us talk about the fighting capacity of the Afghan Army. Personally, I have no doubt that all branches of our armed forces will firmly defend the motherland and resist the attacks of all enemies. Throughout the years of undeclared war the Afghan Army increased in number, strengthened in its ideological and organizational structure, was tempered in combat, and learned from the great combat mastery of the Soviet soldiers. The Army and the border guards are fully equipped with modern technical devices and arms, which permit us to accomplish our own military tasks and reliably protect the industrial centers and the means of communications in our country."

Lobov on Pullout

PM2605164988 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 20, 15 May 88 pp 4-5

[Interview with Colonel General Vladimir Lobov, first deputy in chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff, by MOSCOW NEWS analyst Yuriy Teplyakov: "We Shall Remember That May...Firsthand Information: On the Eve"; date and place not given]

[Text] MN: I would like to begin this conversation with recollections of the alarming December 1979, when our troops crossed the border of Afghanistan. I can only imagine how difficult it was to pass this decision. The question remains to this day: Was the step really inevitable?

V.L.: Apparently at that time the step was inevitable. The independence of a sovereign state was in obvious danger. The question was repeatedly and thoroughly examined in the most complicated of situations. Sixteen times our Afghan friends asked us to help them. The time came when to wait meant only one thing—to betray friends.

MN: If it is no secret, did you participate in passing the decision on bringing the troops in?

V.L.: No, I did not.

MN: Quite often it is alleged in the West that the USSR brought its troops into Afghanistan pursuing, above all, its own interests, and that the fate of the Kabul regime was for the Soviets of the tenth, at any rate, not of the first, significance. The Soviet Union, they say, had to ensure the safety of the border with Afghanistan, which is called the USSR's "soft underbelly".

V.L.: If that were the case, why should we have waited for the 17th request?

MN: The withdrawal of Soviet troops has been discussed for a long time. It seemed to many that this should have taken place immediately after the new Soviet leadership came to power in 1985. People reasoned: since the international prestige of the USSR is suffering because of the events in Afghanistan and since the troops had been brought in under Brezhnev, it would be much more advantageous for the success of perestroyka in the USSR, for the establishment of the new political thinking proclaimed by Gorbachev to solve the "problem of Afghanistan" as soon as possible. But time passed and the troops remained there.

V.L.: The date of troop withdrawal was not prompted either by advantages of disadvantages for the USSR. It was prompted not by changes in our country but, above all, by changes around Afghanistan. To many people the policy of national reconciliation at first seemed a propaganda step. But the reality convinced them that it was the only way to peace. Since Pakistan signed the agreement on non-interference in the affairs of Afghanistan and on the renunciation of intervention, with the USA acting as guarantor, the USSR and Afghanistan concluded that there was no need for our military presence.

MN: It is common knowledge that half of the Soviet contingent will be withdrawn in three months. Is it possible that the withdrawal rate will be even higher?

V.L.: The order and time of withdrawal has been outlined by the Geneva agreements. Each step is fixed in time and is interlinked with the next one. Any deviation from the schedule may cause undesirable consequences. Strict international control will be exercised over the observance of the agreements.

Besides, the dates of withdrawal take into account the conditions in the country. Transport in Afghanistan is poorly developed and works intensively to meet economic needs. Roads are only for motor transport and are very difficult. Our troop withdrawal must not impede Afghanistan's vital activities.

MN: Certain people in the West are gloating: Won't the last days of our troops in Afghanistan be like the last days of US troops in South Vietnam, when helicopters at times had to literally pluck Americans off the roofs?

V.L.: There probably is a difference between uninvited guests and a traditionally friendly neighbour who was asked to come to the hosts' aid.

MN: And still, what are the main difficulties in the process of withdrawal?

V.L.: Difficulties arise when troops are not prepared for them. In any situation a large movement of troops calls for good organization and the maturity of the commanding officers. In Afghanistan the difficulties are aggravated by geographic and climatic conditions. The activity of armed formations must not be disregarded either. The reactionaries are already intensively preparing for a "war on the roads". Stocks of antitank and anti-infantry mines and surprise-mines are being laid in on the territory of Afghanistan. Dushmans' attacks are quite possible on mountain passes, as are all sorts of subversive acts. A column on the march is the most vulnerable. We and our Afghan friends are foreseeing all possible measures, including the troops' readiness for action under the most complicated conditions. If a battle is pressed on us, we shall not avoid it.

MN: After July, when the first stage is over, Soviet troops will stay in Afghanistan for another 6 months. Are there any plans to replace the staying units for that period of time or, to be more precise, will soldiers who have never been to Afghanistan be sent there?

V.L.: Unfortunately, this depends not only on us. Service is service. Our actions will be determined by how the Geneva accords will be fulfilled in practice, not on paper, but in life.

MN: In May 1945, when the Great Patriotic War was coming to an end, the death of every soldier on the threshold of victory was a particularly painful event. A similar situation, most likely, now exists in Afghanistan—each new death will be especially grievous and distressing.

V.L.: I'll make no secret of the complexity of the situation and will say that the toughest military measures are being taken: protection on the march, the strictest observance of discipline, enhanced combat readiness. Everything is being done to prevent even chance casualties in the process of withdrawal.

MN: The Western press equates Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan with defeat. At the press conference in Geneva Shevardnadze was asked: "How do the generals of the Soviet Army react to the fact that for the first time in history they have lost a war?" In this country, too, many wonder—why the delay, one good strike and that would be enough...

V.L.: Our strength is well known, and we're making no secret of it. We came to Afghanistan not to win or lose battles, as the Western press would like to present it. We came at the request of the Afghan people to help them uphold their independence. Time has shown that stabilization in the Republic of Afghanistan depended not so much on the internal situation there, as on the attitude of Pakistan, the USA and several other countries to this question. As soon as their attitude changed-which they confirmed by signing the Geneva accords-the Soviet troops became unnecessary.

MN: May 15. It will be a troublesome day for our army...

V.L.: For our army all days are troublesome. But the troubles of that particular day are something we were undoubtedly waiting for.

Afghan Revolutionary Council Holds Final Session

LD2605191588 Moscow TASS in English 1840 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Kabul May 26 TASS—Afghanistan's Revolutionary Council held its last, emergency session in the Afghan capital today.

Its members endorsed a number of legislative acts and the Council of Ministers' proposal for transforming the ministries of internal and foreign trade into one department.

Afghan President Najibullah, addressing the session, said that the National Council would begin work in a few days. In keeping with the Constitution, the Revolutionary Council would relinquish its powers.

The Revolutionary Council had done a great deal of important work in strengthening state authority and expanding its social base, in legislation and in the solution of immediate tasks facing Afghan society.

The republic's supreme state and legislative body had been pursuing a course towards peace and security in the country and around the world.

Najibullah pointed to the special significance of the laws and decrees endorsed by the Revolutionary Council following the proclamation of the policy of national reconciliation. These laws, he said, would play an important role in Afghanistan's social and political life.

The Afghan president said that the Revolutionary Council had accumulated vast experience which should be used in the work of the National Council.

Both chambers of the National Council held preparatory sessions here today. The deputies of the Wolasi Jirgah [People's Assembly] and the Senate elected commissions to check credentials of the members of the Afghan Parliament to hold its first session shortly.

Districts Discuss Afghan Accord Implementation

LD2605125288 Moscow TASS in English 1238 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Kabul May 26 TASS—By TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin:

The inhabitants of Paghman District of Kabul Province have committed themselves to prevent the introduction of rockets and other types of weapons into the district. It was noted at the Jirgah [assembly] of the Council of Elders, religious figures and other authoritative representatives of Paghman's population that effective implementation of the Geneva accords and the national reconciliation necessitates joint efforts by all of Afghanistan's peace forces. The resolution passed by the jirgah stresses that it is the civic duty of inhabitants of the villages lying close to the capital to prevent the bombardment of Kabul by irreconcilable opposition groups.

According to reports reaching from different provinces of Afghanistan, jirgahs in support of the Geneva accords are being held there. The inhabitants of Paktia, Parvan, and other provinces declared for stepping up cooperation with the authorities for ensuring security in the countryside and on the roads.

Another 130 refugees returned from Pakistan to Qandahar and Nangarhar Provinces. The Afghans returning from abroad are ensured material aid and various fringe benefits. At present townships, camps and peace hotels opened all over the country can simutaneously provide accommodation for up to 10,000 persons. Eleven hundred automobiles have been assigned for the carriage of repatriates from the border to their native villages and cities. Use is also made of transport planes. Every refugee returning home receives from the state an unrepayable loan, on which a person can make a living for six months.

According to a BAKHTAR agency report, on Tuesday night extremist elements rocketed the city of Herat, destroying several houses and badly damaging a mosque, which is a monument of medieval architecture. It is also reported that rocket projectiles have been fired in recent days on the city of Meymaneh, as a result of the criminal actions six persons were killed and another 18 injured.

The Afghan security service, BAKHTAR said, have put an end to the criminal activities of four anti-government extremist groups in Nangarhar and Kunar Provinces. Large quantities of weapons and ammunition have been captured.

Arab Summit Preview Cites Goals, Obstacles

PM2505142588 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 May 88 Morning Edition p 6

[Own correspondent V. Neznamov dispatch: "Arab Countries: On the Road to the Summit"]

[Text] Algiers—The resumption of the Palestinian-Syrian dialogue at the summit level and the strengthening of the trend toward the normalization of relations between the PLO and Damascus which followed, as well as the decision to restore diplomatic relations adopted by the Popular and Democratic Republic of Algeria and Morocco, are probably the most hopeful results marking the process of preparations for the Pan-Arab summit scheduled to take place in the Algerian capital on 7 June this year.

Despite the fact that much remains to be done in both areas to back up the adopted political decisions with specific practical steps, it is nonetheless possible to note that the biggest obstacles on the road to Algiers, created by years of confrontation, are beginning to be actively removed and the upcoming meeting itself promises to be truly representative.

The idea of the need to improve inter-Arab relations as the main precondition of the Arab capitals' active participation in the process of settling the most protracted regional conflict, which the Near East conflict is, forms the basis of the document which endorsed the restoration of diplomatic relations between neighbors Algeria and Morocco. It also contains a provision which could in the longer term pave the way for the elimination of another, albeit smaller-scale conflict situation in the Western Sahara. The different approaches to this situation in the past were the root cause of the split between Algeria and Morocco. The restoration of diplomatic relations between Algiers and Rabat, the communique notes, pursues the aim of contributing to international community efforts to accelerate the process of finding a just and definitive solution to the Western Sahara conflict by means of a referendum on the question of just and free self-determination by the population of that territory.

Observers believe that these decisions, which have substantially improved the inter-Arab climate on the eve of the Algiers summit, will be complemented in the near future with a decision on the question of the participation in the summit of Egypt, whose membership of the Arab League was suspended after Cairo signed the separate treaty with Tel Aviv in 1979. According to Egyptian press reports, one of H. Mubarak's advisers recently visited Algiers to prepare Mubarak's meeting with President Ch. Bendjedid of Algeria during the OAU jubilee session about to open in Addis Ababa. Judging by appearances, this meeting can be viewed as a prelude to the restoration of diplomatic relations between Algeria and Egypt—which would remove in principle all the formal obstacles to Egypt's participation in the Pan-Arab summit.

Naval Ships To Visit Algiers 30 May-3 Jun

LD2705081588 Moscow TASS in English 0700 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Moscow May 27 TASS—Two Soviet naval ships will pay an official friendly visit to the port of Algiers on May 30 to June 3, according to an understanding that has been reached.

The big anti-submarine ship Komsomolets Ukrainy and the guard ship Pytlivy will be commanded by Rear Admiral Vladimir Georov.

Naj' Hammadi Aluminum Plant Prospects Viewed

PM2605143588 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 24 May 88 p 3

[Dispatch by TASS correspondent V. Yefremov specially for SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA: "Giant for the Land of the Pyramids"]

[Text] Cairo—Everyone knows the aluminum plant in Naj' Hammadi in Egypt. It is an object of legitimate pride for Egyptians, this flagship of Egypt's nonferrous metallurgy industry. The largest aluminum plant in the Near East, constructed with the Soviet Union's assistance, produces 177,000 tonnes of first-class metal a year, which makes it possible to cover the requirements of Egypt's national industry and to export a considerable proportion of its output and obtain the currency extremely necessary to Egypt. Naj' Hammadi's high-quality aluminum is bought by Japan, the FRG, the United States, Switzerland, Australia, and many other countries.

The creation of this enterprise, which plays an important role in Egyptian industry, became possible thanks to the Aswan hydraulic power station, also constructed with the USSR's technical and economic assistance. The cheap electrical current from Aswan made it possible to create fundamentally new modern industries in the country, in particular the aluminum industry. An intergovernment agreement on constructing the plant was signed back in 1969 under President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir. This was a complex time in the Egyptian people's history—the country had not yet recovered from the consequences of the very grave 1967 war and the struggle was continuing against the Israeli aggressors who had occupied part of Egyptian territory. But the Egyptian leadership and J. 'Abd al-Nasir personally understood the need to create a modern industry—the basis of the republic's economic and political autonomy.

The plant's construction was to a Soviet plan, with the technical assistance of Soviet organizations, and the equipment was also delivered from the USSR. A large group of Soviet specialists worked on the plant's construction and the development of its capacities. Thanks to this the plant rapidly reached its planned capacity. Egyptian specialists acknowledge that for over 10 years now the plant's operation has shown the reliability of Soviet equipment. It is no accident that the Egyptian side is displaying interest in continuing cooperation with the Soviet Union on questions of reconstructing, modernizing, and expanding the plant's existing production facilities. In particular talks are under way on the creation of a sheet rolling facility in Naj' Hammadi.

"We are extremely interested in expanding cooperation with the Soviet Union," says Safwat Abu Rayyah the plant's general director, whose has been working here since the first days of the enterprise's construction. "We have been convinced for ourselves of the reliability and effectiveness of Soviet equipment and Soviet specialists' high degree of professionalism. That is why we firmly link plans to develop the plant with the continuation of mutually advantageous cooperation between our two countries."

This assessment is shared by other Egyptian engineers and workers and the plant's working people. Many of them have studied in the Soviet Union, but even more have passed through a production school directly at Naj' Hammadi under the leadership of Soviet specialists.

"The plant exists primarily thanks to cooperation with the Soviet Union. Your specialists have shown themselves to be great masters and real friends," Engineer 'Abd al-Fattah says. Mustafa Qadi, the plant's chief controller, who studied the basics of his speciality in Bratsk, and the workers who work alongside Soviet specialists agree with him.

In late April Soviet and Egyptian organizations signed a contract on cooperation in the field of introducing progressive new technology at the Naj' Hammadi plant. It provides for the organization of an experimental sector here to create electrolyzers using prebaked anodes. The new technology will make it possible to considerably increase the productivity of this major complex and to increase production output by 20-25 percent and will provide a marked saving of electricity. Describing this document, M. 'Abd al-Wahhab, Egyptian minister of industry, stressed its importance for Egypt. The implementation of such projects accords with the interests of Egypt's socioeconomic development, the minister said.

East Europe

Further on Jaruzelski Remarks to Workers

PM2605125188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 May 88 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Along the Path of Renewal"]

[Text] Warsaw, 25 May—Wojciech Jaruzelski, first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee and chairman of the Polish Council of State, has declared that Poland has embarked firmly and irrevocably on the path of renewal, profound change, and reform. He was addressing a national conference of worker self-management representatives. A hard road lies before us, the Polish leader said. We must still overcome many objective obstacles and subjective impediments. However, this is within the limits of our abilities. I am convinced that the organs of worker self-management are using them for the good of labor collectives, the working people, and socialist Poland.

Touching on progress in the implementation of economic reform in the country, particularly the Sejm's granting of emergency powers to the government, W. Jaruzelski pointed out that they will be used to revive and put in order some of its mechanisms, which are jammed or flawed and, above all, to galvanize labor activity. To ensure persistence and consistency in action, the PZPR, the Sejm, and the allied parties will keep a close watch on how these powers are employed.

Criticism, anxiety, and concern over the future and living conditions, which trouble working people and the entire population, were voiced during the debate at the conference. This concern must be understood and respected. We must ensure that it does not degenerate into sterile martyrdom or, most importantly, destructive action. It must be transformed into initiative, increased effort, and better organization and discipline. The activities of worker's councils and self-management bodies serve, and will continue to serve this purpose.

At this point, what we need most are tranquillity and work, not competition in demanding more. Recent incidents have reminded us what all this leads to.

Polish Unions View Changes in Prices, Incomes

PM2605100788 Moscow TRUD in Russian
25 May 88 p 3

[TASS report: "Important Questions Discussed"]

[Text] Warsaw, 24 May—In the opinion of the trade unions—and this has also been confirmed by the Ministry of Finance—the money-market situation in Poland deteriorated in the first quarter of the year. This was stressed at a session of the Executive Committee of the National Trade Union Confederation [OPZZ] held here on Monday. Both incomes and prices rose at higher rates than planned for this year. Moreover, it is important to note that monetary incomes grew more rapidly than the population's spending and market deliveries of goods. A. Miodowicz, chairman of the OPZZ, emphasized at the session that the inadequate supply of goods prompts speculators to inflate the already high prices. Incorrect systems of rewards, which do not provide incentives for labor, are responsible for the shortages of goods. Hence the need to modernize the law on systems of rewards at enterprises.

The trade unions are also alarmed by the rapid increase in the financial resources of many enterprises, which is disproportionate to the increase in output. Profit for distribution rose by 93 percent in a number of cases, which violates the principles of the economic reform.

It was noted at the session that a decision has been made to use the information on the results of this abnormal first quarter for an in-depth, competent analysis of the situation in the field of prices and incomes. The OPZZ will conduct this analysis together with the government at the end of the first 6 months of the year.

As for the political resolutions on Poland adopted at the congresses of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions in Melbourne this March and the European Confederation of Trade Unions in Stockholm this May, the Executive Committee made a statement recalling that the OPZZ has frequently shown its sincere will for constructive cooperation and dialogue with trade unions of different orientations. At the same time, the statement noted that the reborn Polish trade union movement will resolutely oppose attempts to interfere in its internal affairs.

Katyn Monument to Polish Officers Refurbished

PM2605103388 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
25 May 88 Second Edition p 6

[TASS report: "Following the Command of the Duty of Remembrance"]

[Text] Smolensk, 24 May—The restorers have given a solemn look to the memorial to Polish officers shot by the fascists near the village of Katyn.

Granite and marble are the cladding for the monument, which stands in a pine forest on the steep bank of the Dnepr. These words are engraved in the stone: "To the Polish officers shot by the fascists in 1941." Alongside is a plaque dedicated to the Soviet prisoners of war who, on orders from the Hitlerites, took part in the exhumation and then met with the same fate as the Poles. The fraternal burial site has been well appointed.

Army Paper Notes Project

PM2705122988 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 27 May 88 Single Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Memorial in the Village of Katyn"]

[Text] Smolensk—The memorial to Polish officers who perished during World War II in the vicinity of the village of Katyn, several kilometers from Smolensk, is now more majestic and elegant. Representatives of the public of this ancient city and servicemen from the local garrison have completed the refurbishment of this site of mourning and remembrance for the Polish and Soviet peoples.

The memorial is located in a spruce forest on the steep bank of the Dnepr. The area around the communal grave has been tidied up, and the approach roads have been widened. Parking places have been fitted out on the Riga-Orel Highway.

Maslyukov, CSSR Counterpart Discuss Planning

LD2705090788 Prague CTK in English 2115 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Moscow May 26 (CTK correspondent)—Czechoslovak Deputy Premier and Chairman of the State Planning Commission Svatopluk Potac met here today with Soviet Communist Party Politburo member and Chairman of the Soviet State Planning Committee Yuriy Maslyukov.

The two representatives discussed the state of the concept of economic and scientific-technological cooperation between Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union in the forthcoming 15-20 years.

Svatopluk Potac and Yuriy Maslyukov dealt also with the preparations of coordination of the Czechoslovak and Soviet national-economic plans in 1991-1995 and other topical questions of Czechoslovak-Soviet economic cooperation.

SFRY Spokesman Cited on Moscow Summit

LD2705015288 Moscow TASS in English 2054 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Belgrade May 26 TASS—The forthcoming meeting in Moscow between General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan is an event of exceptional international significance, an official spokesman for Yugoslavia's Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs told a news conference here today.

Aleksandar Stanic pointed out that Yugoslavia was seeking to improve the entire complex of international relations and hoped that the Soviet-American summit would bring about useful results.

Comparison of SFRY Journal on Gorbachev Visit

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 25 May carries in its Second Edition on page 5 a TASS report on an article in the Yugoslav weekly "KOMMUNIST" dealing with General Secretary Gorbachev's visit to the SFRY. The PRAVDA version, published under the headline "Important Event. Yugoslav Journal on M.S. Gorbachev's Visit to the SFRY," has been compared with the TASS piece published in the 25 May Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, pp 46-7, revealing the following variations:

Page 46:

Column one, paragraph two, lines five and six, read in PRAVDA: ...development of relations and they have been characterized at times... (rewording)

Column two, paragraphs three and four, are entirely omitted in PRAVDA.

West Europe

FRG Spokesman Comments on Moscow Summit

LD2705015088 Moscow TASS in English 2202 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Bonn May 26 TASS—The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany expects the forthcoming Soviet-U.S. meeting in Moscow to give fresh important impetus to the process of disarmament and to improving relations between the East and West on the whole, Friedhelm Ost, a spokesman for the West German Government, said.

Following the signing of the Soviet-U.S. intermediate-range nuclear forces treaty, he stressed, it is necessary to take further steps towards disarmament and arms control. The Moscow summit must produce definitive results in a 50 per cent cut in strategic nuclear arms, outline measures to verify compliance with such an agreement. The West German spokesman urged the USSR and USA to have positive cooperation in solving regional conflicts and to expand contacts in the humanitarian field, economy and research.

FRG Weekly 'Exults' Over Anti-Airstrip Weapon

PM2605110988 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 May 88 Morning Edition p 6

[Own correspondent Ye. Grishin dispatch: "Pursuit of 'Miracle Weapon'"]

[Text] Bonn—A "sensational report" has appeared in the Springer weekly WELT AM SONNTAG.

It was published under the headline "NATO's New Miracle Weapon Against Eastern Airfields." Making no secret of its glee, the newspaper writes that U.S. and FRG military industry concerns have completed work on the creation of a "penetrator"—an "unusual projectile with a great dispersal effect." The new weapon is intended to destroy enemy airfields. The weekly describes its action as follows: "It is a ballistic missile with a range of up to 490 km. Its flight speed increases by a factor of 10 or 12 as it approaches the target. It explodes in the air above the surface of the airfield and scatters 44 explosive devices. These cut through the concrete surface of the airstrip and explode underground. As a result, the airfield is transformed into a churned-up piece of ground which aircraft cannot use for landing or takeoff."

The "miracle weapon" could make a substantial contribution to strengthening NATO's strategy of deterrence, WELT AM SONNTAG exults. It is planned to produce

250 projectiles and 11,000 explosive devices to go with them, at a total cost of DM4 billion. This is to be shared between the U.S. and West German military industry firms—Hercules, Martin Marietta, Goodyear, Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm, Dornier, Dynamit Nobel, and Diehl—which have developed the "penetrator."

The Springer weekly advertises the new weapon as an innocent achievement of science and technology. The public, however, has greeted these reports with alarm. It rightly sees the desire to perfect weapons as a manifestation of stepped-up efforts on the part of the military-industrial complex, which is seeking to undermine the disarmament process and the positive development of East-West relations.

FRG Tourists To Reach Olympics by Soviet Rail

LD2605101588 Moscow TASS in English 0947 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—As this year's Olympic games are drawing closer, Soviet railwaymen are preparing for the event in their own way as well, according to the first deputy minister of railways of the USSR.

Vladimir Grinko told TASS that a West German travel agency was planning to send half a thousand tourists from Dortmund to Moscow by their own cars.

From the Soviet capital, the West Germans and their cars will go to the port city of Nakhodka on the Pacific coast by rail.

The last leg to South Korea will be done by sea.

The same arrangements would be made for the return journey, Grinko added.

On their way by rail to the Soviet Far East and back, the travellers will twice cross the Volga region, the (conventional) borderline between Europe and Asia—the Urals—and Siberia.

Italian Communist Leader Natta Interviewed

PM2605103988 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 May 88 Second Edition p 6

[Interview with Alessandro Natta, secretary general of the Italian Communist Party, by N. Prozhogin: "Facing Up to the Challenge of the Times"; interview consists of written answers to questions submitted in advance]

[Excerpts] Some time ago the PRAVDA editorial board asked Italian Communist Party [PCI] Secretary General Alessandro Natta to share his thoughts on a number of topical issues with our readers. We publish below the text we received from Rome.

[Prozhogin] Recently you met with M.S. Gorbachev. Such meetings have occurred before between you. Are relations developing dynamically between our two parties? How do you assess their current state?

[Natta] The development of relations between the PCI and the CPSU has not been straightforward and even. As is known, it has gone through different stages and periods. Now the nature of the dynamics of relations between the two parties, given their complete independence of one another, is very political. From our viewpoint, the more effective the CPSU is in attaining the supreme goal of peace and in solving the fundamental tasks of national independence, democracy, and socialism, the more we feel that the potential of relations between our parties is capable of even greater growth and exploitation. The same is true, I believe, for the CPSU in relation to the PCI, although I am well aware, of course, that the size of the two parties, their roles, and the international influence of their foreign policy and domestic policy decisions are in no way comparable.

In view of what I have said, I consider the current state of relations between the two parties to be very good. The meetings with Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev and with the other CPSU leaders participating in them were conducted in methodological terms on the basis of a clear-cut assertion of both parties' independence. During a frank comparison of views on questions under discussion, we expressed the Italian Communists' great interest in and ardent support for the course of Soviet foreign policy and the philosophy on which it is based (a new method of understanding today's world and its future) and for restructuring and its aims, epitomized in the call for "More socialism and more democracy!"

That is our assessment, and I hope that it is similar to the CPSU's leaders' opinion. However, for the sake of basic and, at the same time, essential clarity, allow me to offer yet another thought on the dynamics of relations between the CPSU and the PCI.

As the multifaceted and all-embracing relations between progressive parties and movements expand and strengthen, an extremely significant example of which was provided by their meeting in Moscow last November, so our relations could become more intensive and beneficial.

In fact, the link between social, political, and cultural forces, so profoundly different, yet an essential combination in terms of building the world and of equality and justice between people, is and will increasingly become a condition and, at the same time, an expression of the development of the world historical process that is drawing people toward the aforementioned goals.

Contemporary reality daily demonstrates the validity of this belief of ours.

[Prozhogin] Your party favors cooperation with other left-wing, democratic forces in various countries. What, in your opinion, can and must these forces do to tackle the acute problems of international life, starting with problems of disarmament and elimination of nuclear weapons?

[Natta] The PCI is not only in favor in principle of cooperation with other democratic and left-wing forces in various countries, but it is implementing or seeking it.

Obviously, cooperation with progressive forces in other continents cannot be very close, although we try not to reduce it to occasional "diplomatic" meetings, but, in fact, to gear it as far as possible to specific matters of common interest.

In Western Europe, cooperation is more intensive both quantitatively and qualitatively, and not only because of geographic proximity. [passage omitted]

[Prozhogin] What are the PCI's relations with left-wing forces in other West European countries like?

[Natta] The European left-wing forces are not a fully formed organism that we are applying to join. What we are talking about is a wide spectrum of socialist, social democratic, and communist forces, secular or Christian forces, pacifists and ecologists, and the women's movement. They are different currents which in the last decade and in very recent times have been the targets of capitalism's neoliberalist onslaught. Now they are analyzing the accumulated experience and seeking new ways of counterattacking, but they are still very often divided in their own movements when it comes to aims and the means of attaining them.

We Italian Communists are participating in that quest. We want to invest in it our ideological equipment and experience and our distinctiveness in order to receive from others and make our own theoretical and political contribution to the comparison of views, to harmony, and to unity among these forces at national and supranational level.

We know how difficult the task that we have taken on is. But the rallying of European left-wing forces to implement the economic and political unity of the EEC and to get Western Europe to perform a new role is a decisive stage on the road to ensuring that this part of our continent can successfully confront the massive, multifaceted challenges of our time. They are the questions of disarmament and security, cooperation between the "two Europes" (suffice it to mention relations between the EEC and CEMA), open and positive competition with the powerful economies of the United States and Japan, and international cooperation capable of smashing the fetters of backwardness and giving every people complete independence to choose their own system of government and ways of improving society.

Finally, there is the challenge that encapsulates everything else: the task of advancing toward socialism, which, in this part of the world, the cradle of Marxism and the workers movement, must be implemented in the form of the full and unswerving establishment of democracy.

In a situation of peace, growing political interdependence, and internationalization of the economy, the unity of left-wing forces is a condition of this advancement and of the achievement of its end result.

Ryzhkov Meets With President of Volvo

PM2605125388 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
26 May 88 Second Edition p 3

[TASS report under headline "Talks in the Kremlin"]

[Text] Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, met on 25 May with P. Gyllenhammar, president of the Volvo industrial concern of Sweden, who has come to the Soviet Union for talks with Soviet organizations on a number of questions connected with economic cooperation.

During the conversation, both sides expressed interest in the possibility of expanding the sphere of cooperation between industrial enterprises affiliated with the Volvo concern and Soviet economic bodies. It was pointed out that favorable prospects in this area were connected with structural changes taking place in the Soviet economy and the reorganization of foreign economic activities. The priority development of the food industry, the service sector, including tourism, as well as the machine-building complex, permits foreign partners to establish long-term stable business relations with corresponding industrial enterprises in the USSR.

Taking account of the Volvo concern's wide-ranging interests, it was agreed that the parties will examine mutual proposals with proper attention and widen the joint search for new spheres and projects of cooperation.

Participating in the talks were V.M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; V.L. Malkevich, chairman of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry Presidium; and also A. Thunborg, Swedish ambassador to the USSR.

Gromyko Greets Finnish 'Worker Culture Festival'

PM2605084188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
23 May 88 Second Edition p 3

[Message from A.A. Gromyko, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, to participants in the Finnish Worker Culture Festival in the USSR; date not given]

[Text] To the participants in the Finnish Worker Culture Festival in the USSR:

I cordially greet the participants in the Finnish Worker Culture Festival in the USSR.

The event is taking place at a significant time for both countries, when our peoples are celebrating a glorious jubilee—the 40th anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance Between the USSR and Finland. The treaty laid a sure foundation for the development of Soviet-Finnish cooperation in all spheres. It also created new opportunities for establishing and strengthening links between public organizations, trade unions, and creative unions.

Their further development is an important factor in the consolidation of Soviet-Finnish good-neighborliness, thus helping strengthen mutual understanding between the Soviet people and the Finns. Joint efforts in this area by the greatest of the mass organizations—trade unions—and cultural figures, who exert a substantial influence on the formation of public opinion, are of great significance for the implementation of the treaty provisions. This cooperation contributes not only to the mutual spiritual enrichment of the Soviet and Finnish peoples, but also to consolidating the principles of trust and good-neighborliness in international life.

Today the public has a particularly big role to play in ensuring a nuclear-free, nonviolent world and in building our "common European home." I express the hope that the Finnish Worker Culture Festival in the USSR will help attain that noble goal.

I wish all the festival participants success.

A. Gromyko

Political & Social

PRAVDA Carries Central Committee Theses

PM2705090188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 May 88 Second Edition pp 1-3

["CPSU Central Committee Theses for the 19th All-Union Party Conference (Approved by CPSU Central Committee Plenum 23 May 1988)"—PRAVDA headline]

[Text] Our country is undergoing profound revolutionary transformations of historic significance initiated and organized by the CPSU. The CPSU Central Committee April (1985) Plenum and the 27th congress defined the party's course of accelerating socioeconomic development, comprehensively renewing Soviet society, and raising socialism to a qualitatively new level. This innovative strategy was deepened and concretized at the CPSU Central Committee January and June 1987 Plenums, during the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of October, and at the Central Committee February plenum this year. As a result, the foundations of the theory and scientific policy of the restructuring of all aspects of society's life have been laid.

The goal of restructuring is to reveal fully the humanist nature and creative might of socialism. The achievement of this goal is inseparable from the development of democracy and glasnost, people's self-management, radical economic reform, the moral cleansing of society, and the revelation of the creative potential inherent in the free and all-around development of man.

What are the first results of restructuring and what needs to be done to remove the obstacles in its path, to give a powerful new impetus to the revolutionary process of renewal, and to render it irreversible? The 19th All-Union Party Conference, which opens in Moscow on 28 June 1988, must give an answer to these questions which are of vital concern to Communists and all Soviet people.

The conference agenda is as follows: 1) progress in implementing the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress, the main results of the first half of the 12th 5-Year Plan, and party organizations' tasks in deepening the process of restructuring; 2) measures to further democratize the life of the party and society.

The questions being submitted for the conference's examination are of vital significance for the party and the country. It is necessary to provide a realistic assessment of what has been done, to approach what has been achieved from a position of serious critical and self-critical analysis, to investigate how adopted decisions are being carried out, to pointedly raise questions demanding priority attention, to generalize positive experience, and to define the prospects for further progress.

The CPSU Central Committee Theses are offered as a platform for discussion of these questions.

1. Restructuring has created a fundamentally new ideological and political situation in society. It has become a reality and is gathering strength, spreading in depth and breadth and embracing all strata and spheres of society's life. The Central Committee February (1988) Plenum defined the ideological essence of the processes under way as a revolution in consciousness and ideological renewal. The formation of real pluralism of opinions and open comparison of ideas and interests are a characteristic feature of our time. Thanks to this, Soviet people have the opportunity to make fuller use of their intellectual and moral potential and to join more actively in social life.

Political consolidation of the working class, peasantry, intelligentsia, and all social forces is taking place on the platform of restructuring. By their labor and social activeness, Soviet people are providing increasingly effective support for the revolutionary transformations in the country. This is today the main trend in social development and the most important result of the first stage of restructuring.

At the same time, the process of restructuring is proceeding in a contradictory fashion, via the overcoming of difficulties and a struggle between the old and the new. The vestiges of conservatism and of the bureaucratic mentality have proven particularly tenacious. The supporters of dogmatic notions of socialism are being slow to yield ground. Attempts are being made to maintain the old, coercive [nazhimnyy] methods of leadership of the economy and other spheres of life.

It is impossible to make successful progress and resolve the large-scale tasks of restructuring without overcoming these negative phenomena. It is necessary to raise the theoretical level of ideological and political work and deepen creative debate on vital questions of socialism. While supporting diversity of opinions, the CPSU Central Committee stresses that debates are fruitful only on the basis and in the name of socialism. They must not lead to political confrontation or disunite social forces, which would complicate the solution of tasks which are vital for our entire society.

This also applies to many acute questions of history, interest in which has increased exceptionally of late. The party will consistently pursue a policy of openness, glasnost, and free discussion of the problems of past and present, since only such a policy helps to improve the moral health of Soviet society and rid it of everything alien to its humane nature.

We are by no means indifferent to the question not only of the aims and values of socialism, but of the means of achieving them and the human price that will have to be paid for them. The rehabilitation of those who fell victim in the past to unsubstantiated political accusations and lawlessness is our party and civic duty.

We need a constantly operating mechanism for comparing views and for criticism and self-criticism in the party and society. The undoubted gains of the policy of glasnost must be consolidated and augmented. Under the one-party system, which has historically emerged and become established in our country and is today organically combined with the processes of democratization, this question is vitally important. A Leninist approach is very important here. While condemning factionalism, V.I. Lenin was resolutely opposed to persecuting party comrades for thinking differently [inakomysliye] on particular issues. Constant, constructive political dialogue, culture in debate, extensive information on questions of domestic and foreign policy, and study and consideration of public opinion are called upon to be inalienable features of party life.

2. The problems of economic and social development have occupied a most important place in party activity since the Central Committee April Plenum.

It is well known that the years of stagnation brought the country to the brink of economic crisis. The extensive, essentially cost-based system of running the economy was completely exhausted. The economy's structure and technical level run counter to present-day demands. Administrative-edict management methods became a most serious brake. The growth of production, its efficiency, and the improvement of the population's living standard came to a halt. Many social questions were neglected. The country's finances were in serious disarray and the responsibility of cadres and labor discipline were slackened.

The party was faced with the complex task of extricating the country from stagnation, improving the economic situation, making development benefit the people, and developing and implementing a package of long-term measures in order to ensure the accelerated attainment of the front rank of world scientific, technical, and economic progress.

Considerable work to instill elementary order, strengthen discipline in the national economy, increase exactingness toward cadres, and eradicate the most intolerable manifestations of bureaucratic methods preventing people from working normally was launched as a first step.

The practical implementation of a new structural policy placing the emphasis on the development of scientific and technical progress and the modernization of machine-building as the foundation for improving the technical standard of the entire economy has been initiated. Specific measures of an economic and organizational nature are being implemented to promote improvements in output quality.

Appropriations for housing construction, health care, the development of public education, the strengthening of the material base of culture, and other social purposes have been increased as a counterweight to the "leftover principle" that was used in the past for allocating funds for the development of the social sphere.

The main stress was laid on the elaboration and practical implementation of a radical reform ensuring the transition from primarily administrative to economic leadership methods and the improvement of the interest of collectives and individual workers in the results of their work. The adoption of the laws on the state enterprise (association), on the cooperative system, and on individual labor activity were major milestones along this road. Large-scale work has been launched in the country to switch enterprises to economic accountability [khozraschet], progressive forms of labor organization and incentives, and self-management. They liberate the initiative of labor collectives and people's enterprise, encourage people to work with maximum effect, promote the eradication of wage-leveling in all its forms, and provide a material foundation for the democratization process.

The party has adopted a course of comprehensively revealing the potential of kolkhozes and sovkhozes via the development of diverse forms of contract and the creation of a broad network of cooperatives both within the framework of existing farms and in interconnection with other enterprises and sectors of the economy.

Of course, 2-3 years is not long enough for radical economic transformations. We are at the initial stage of those transformations, a kind of transition period. The Law on the State Enterprise and other decisions relating to economic reform came into force only this year and in any case are not working at full strength because they have been introduced in the middle of the 5-year plan, against a background of outdated prices, the absence of wholesale trade in means of production, and persisting shortages. The major programs for scientific and technical progress which have been formulated and introduced will not yield a return immediately.

Nevertheless, positive changes are taking place. The main change is that it has been possible to halt the growth of negative trends, which had been threatening to develop into a crisis situation, to break those trends, and to create definite preconditions for further steady progress.

It is a question not only of the acceleration in the pace of industrial output growth, the increase in the commissioning of fixed capital, and the improvement in other quantitative indicators. What is important is that they have been achieved on a healthier economic basis. Last year for the first time the entire increase in national income was obtained by increasing labor productivity.

The first encouraging results have appeared in the creation of examples of modern equipment and technology. The production of agricultural output has increased somewhat.

The situation has also changed in the social sphere. In the past 2 years average monthly wages for workers and employees increased by almost 6 percent and kolkhoz members' labor remuneration rose by 8.9 percent. The annual commissioning of housing increased by 15 million square meters in comparison with the 11th 5-Year Plan. The death rate fell and the birthrate increased, facts which were promoted to a considerable extent by the measures against alcoholism and drunkenness.

Positive results have been achieved, but they give no grounds for speaking of a fundamental breakthrough in the country's socioeconomic development. The structure of the economy is still "overweight" ["utyazhelennyy"] with a clearly pronounced cost-based character. The targets for increasing national income and for saving resources are not being met. Machine building is developing more slowly than planned. There is still a shortage of high-quality electronics industry goods and progressive structural materials.

The failures to meet targets for the preferential growth of consumer goods production are particularly intolerable. Difficulties remain in the population's food supply. The targets for increasing the production and improving the quality of consumer goods and increasing commodity turnover have not been fulfilled. The commodity-money imbalance and state budget deficit are having an adverse effect on current production and the course of the reform itself.

The potential opened up with the start of implementation of the reform is clearly being insufficiently utilized. The conference will have to profoundly analyze the causes of that. It is obvious that, for all the difficulties of switching from one system of economic management to another, much here stems from conservatism and backward thinking on the part of some of our economic managers and whole collectives and from a desire to cling to familiar means and methods and to live and work in the old way.

One cannot fail to see that the measures to implement the economic reform are paralyzed to a considerable extent by the bureaucratic stance of a number of ministries, departments, and economic organs. The old administrative diktat essentially persists in many cases in the guise of the state order, economic norms, and other new methods of management. Restructuring at the level of sectorial ministries clearly lags behind restructuring at enterprises. In this connection, actions which distort the essence of the economic reform and which directly or indirectly undermine the Law on the Enterprise must be uncompromisingly condemned.

Life is also raising a serious issue such as the development of economic competitiveness as an antidote to monopolism, stagnation, and conservatism.

The activities of the USSR Gosplan, the USSR Gossnab, the USSR Ministry of Finance, all-union sectorial ministries and departments, republic economic organs, and enterprises and organizations must be analyzed and assessed in light of the present situation. This is particularly important in connection with the forthcoming transition of enterprises in all sectors to economic accountability and self-financing. Learning lessons from the initial stage of restructuring, it is necessary to accelerate the resolution of problems on which the complete implementation of the principles of the economic reform depends. The transition to wholesale trade in means of production and the measures to improve the credit and financial system must be implemented more rapidly, and the reform of prices and price formation must be thoroughly prepared and carried out in a timely fashion. Without this, it will be impossible to introduce really full economic accountability for enterprises and genuine autonomy for labor collectives, to develop the cooperative movement, to improve economic efficiency, and, ultimately, to boost the people's prosperity. It should be stressed that retail prices must be revised without detriment to the population's living standard.

A strong social policy is one of the main priorities in the party's activity. Therefore, in elaborating the 13th 5-Year Plan it is necessary to highlight the social thrust of economic development. Priority should be given to meeting the Soviet people's demand for nutritious foodstuffs in as short a time as possible. Alongside this should stand the questions of saturating the market with high-quality consumer goods in the necessary ranges and creating a modern service sector. It is necessary to envisage the further buildup of housing construction rates and ensure the implementation of the programs adopted for improving health care and public education.

One of the paramount concerns is to step up efforts to protect the environment and to implement a package of measures to fundamentally improve the ecological situation in the country.

The number one production task, as was decided by the 27th CPSU Congress, is the program for the accelerated development of the base sectors of machine building, electronics, instrument making, and machine tool building. It is necessary from the start of next year to more resolutely tackle fundamental changes in structural policy in the sphere of output and capital investment, with the obligatory implementation of the line of strictest economy and resource-saving.

The feasibility of scaling the heights outlined in the 12th 5-Year Plan and on the whole of raising our economic and social sphere to a new qualitative level is confirmed by the fact that there are already many hundreds and thousands of labor collectives in the country that have been able under the new economic management conditions to considerably boost labor productivity and reach world standards of output quality. We have not just individual enterprises and associations, but sectors that are maintaining the set pace in terms of all indicators. There are oblasts and republics where a higher than average level for the country in the provision of foodstuffs and the satisfaction of the population's needs for goods and services has been achieved on the basis of better economic management. Following the example of front-rankers, utilizing their experience, eradicating freeloading, and showing personal initiative is the prime task for economic cadres and all labor collectives.

3. Restructuring presupposes the all-around development and maximum utilization of the intellectual and spiritual potential inherent in the development of science, education, and culture.

The party's economic and social strategy is founded on the acceleration of scientific and technical progress and, above all, on the assimilation of the achievements of its present-day stage, which is associated with the development of advanced technology—microelectronics, robots, instrument making, information technology, biotechnology, the creation of materials with preprogramed properties, and so forth.

Positive changes have emerged in the development of science and technology, exactingness regarding the technical standard of output has increased, and progressive new articles are being assimilated more quickly. The network of scientific and technical organizations has become more flexible and fundamentally new structural formations have appeared—intersectorial scientific and technical complexes, engineering centers, and temporary collectives to resolve specific tasks. More than 500 science and production associations have been set up in the country. Capital investment in strengthening the testing and experimental base of science has increased. The organic inclusion of scientific organizations in the system of economic accountability relationships, which has now begun, is also of considerable significance.

At the same time, there have not been any substantial changes in scientific and technical progress. As yet, effective mechanisms have not been found for engaging the interests of labor collectives in this important matter. The material base of science continues to lag behind. Many leaders have not shaken off the habit of living from day to day, relying entirely in these matters on superior bodies.

The restructuring of the economic mechanism is the principal way to influence scientific-technical progress. The economic mechanism must prompt the constant improvement of production and maintenance of output quality at modern world levels.

Life demands more resolute measures to improve the management of scientific and technical progress and overcome departmental barriers. One new organizational form is intersectorial associations, which have been removed from the direct supervision of the corresponding ministries. As a result of this, opportunities are also created for implementing an interconnected cycle: scientific research—equipment and technology—investment—production—sales—service. Labor collectives will be able to update equipment and technology more quickly, without delays and without departmental coordination.

The problems of scientific and technical progress must be viewed in the general context of social development. The absence of social appraisals of major projects can be very costly in ecological and human terms. The cost must be reduced to a minimum or eliminated altogether.

The new tasks facing society at the present stage considerably increase the role of science in the restructuring processes. Society has reached a point where a substantial breakthrough is needed in all areas of the natural, technical, and social sciences. The USSR Academy of Sciences is called upon to make an increasing contribution to this.

Today socialism cannot develop successfully without relying on scientific and technical progress. In turn, this progress, combined with socialism, is a powerful lever of the social renewal of society and its advancement.

The humanist principles of our policy are geared to ensuring the spiritual progress of society and the boosting of the people's education and culture. In the last 3 years, considerable attention has been paid to the development of education at its various stages and levels. Questions of restructuring the system of public education were examined at the CPSU Central Committee February (1988) Plenum. In many respects, our higher and secondary schools fall short of the demands of life and scientific, technical, and cultural progress. Vigorous efforts are needed by the whole of society to ensure qualitative changes in its development.

In the course of restructuring, increasingly favorable conditions are being created for the development of Soviet culture, people's intellectual and moral improvement, the uncovering of talent and gifts, and the fostering of a person's civic qualities. The intelligentsia is making a substantial contribution to resolving these tasks. The work of established and newly created associations and creative unions has been considerably revitalized. The question of the artist's responsibility for the destiny of the country has arisen with particular force.

4. The CPSU's course of restructuring and of accelerating the country's socioeconomic development has been linked right from the start with the democratization of Soviet society and the assertion of socialist people's self-management. It is impossible to overestimate the

changes which have occurred in this regard. Thanks to truthfulness, glasnost, and the development of criticism and self-criticism, the general tone of the country's political life has improved sharply, democratic processes are developing in the management of production, and an offensive has been launched against obsolete structures and stagnation phenomena. Even so, what has been done so far is just a prelude [podstup] to resolving the tremendously significant and complex task of the profound and comprehensive democratization of the party and society.

Objective analysis of what has been achieved in the economy, the social sphere, and culture over the last 3 years and interpretation of the problems which have arisen in the course of restructuring have led to the conclusion that the political system of Soviet society must be reformed. The purpose of the reform is to truly involve the broad masses of the working people in the management of all state and public affairs and to complete the shaping of the socialist legal state.

At the same time, it is a question of strengthening and developing the fundamental principles of the socialist statehood created by the October Revolution. These principles—above all, the power of the people, in whose vanguard the party of Communists marches—are an indispensable condition for our motherland's further development along the path of social progress. As a result of restructuring, the political system of Soviet society must be freed from everything associated with the consequences of the personality cult, with administrative-edict methods of management, with bureaucratism, with the working people's alienation from power, and with the retreat from Leninist norms of party and state life. It must become dynamic and capable of timely renewal in light of the changing conditions of internal and international life.

5. In light of restructuring, the role of the CPSU as the leading and organizing force in Soviet society appears in a new way.

The CPSU Central Committee proceeds from the Leninist concept of the party as the political vanguard of the working class and all working people. The party, basing itself on Marxist-Leninist teaching, is called upon to elaborate the theory and strategy of social development and domestic and foreign policy, to shape the ideology of socialist renewal, to carry out political and organizational work among the masses, and to train and place cadres.

This was how the party acted during V.I. Lenin's lifetime and under his leadership. After his death, however, a departure from Leninist principles began, the party's traditional freedom of debate was curtailed, and the principles of collegiality and internal party democracy were violated. And this flawed practice persisted to one extent or another during the years of stagnation. The lack of restrictions on holding elected office led to the disruption of the natural process of cadre renewal, and a section of leading workers came to perceive their posts as posts for life, became accustomed to considering themselves infallible, abused power, and were inattentive toward ordinary party members and working people.

The situation which had taken shape had a serious effect on the activities of the CPSU Central Committee, the government, and local party organizations and on the activeness of Communists. Party organs increasingly began taking on the direct resolution of current tasks of economic and administrative management, supplanting the soviets and other state organs. This had an adverse effect on the exercise of the party's basic functions, led to the weakening of its political and ideological influence, and exacerbated many problems of social development.

The party has found within itself the strength to make a courageous and self-critical assessment of the situation which had been created. Having begun restructuring, it is transforming itself step-by-step and renewing internal party life. It is an urgent task to create political mechanisms and guarantees which will preclude the possibility of a future violation of the Leninist principles of the party leadership of society.

Taking account of the opinions expressed at party meetings, in labor collectives, and in the press, the CPSU Central Committee deems it expedient that the following proposals be examined at the conference:

To fully restore the Leninist conception of the principle of democratic centralism, according to which what must be ensured is freedom of debate at the stage when issues are being discussed and unity of action once a decision has been made by the majority.

To proceed in relations between the party and the state from the Leninist principles of clear demarcation of their functions. All party organizations must act within the framework of the USSR Constitution and Soviet laws. It is necessary to preclude the adoption by party committees of any resolutions containing direct instructions to state and economic organs and public organizations. The CPSU pursues its political course via Communists working in the organs of state power and in all spheres of society's life.

Proceeding from the CPSU's tasks as political vanguard and from the profound changes taking place in society, the activity of primary party organizations must be seriously restructured. While remaining the political nucleus of every collective, they must not supplant labor collectives and their organs in the performance of functions envisaged by the laws on the state enterprise and the cooperative system and other legislative acts. Acting primarily through Communists and working with people, party organizations must seek to ensure that every collective fully performs the functions assigned to it and exercises its democratic rights.

It is from this viewpoint that the role of party meetings, party committees, and every Communist in the implementation of party decisions must be reinterpreted. It is necessary to fully revive the atmosphere of openness, debate, criticism and self-criticism, party comradeship and discipline, collectivism, and personal responsibility. This is the direction in which processes in the life of party organizations are now developing. They must be supported and developed by all possible means.

Questions of the qualitative composition of party ranks and the performance by Communists of their vanguard role are being widely discussed within the party and society. In this connection, the opinion is being expressed that the practice of regulating the growth of party ranks by "quota" [raznaryadka] is contrary to the real requirements of the development of the party itself and of the whole of society.

The common opinion is that it is necessary to decisively raise the demands made on those joining the party so as to ensure that its ranks are joined by truly worthy people with lofty political, moral, and professional qualities, convinced fighters for the goals of the party program. The labor collective's opinion must be taken into account without fail when admitting people to the party.

To examine at the conference the question of the expediency of conducting a sociopolitical certification of Communists during the period before the next CPSU Congress as an effective means of the party's self-purification and strengthening. The discussion of Communists' work at open meetings of party organizations will serve to enhance their activeness and their personal contribution to the social life of their collectives and the cause of restructuring.

In light of the experience gained since the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum, it is necessary to make changes to the procedure for forming elected party organs. It is necessary for genuine competition, broad discussion of candidacies, and secret ballots to become the norm. Here the main emphasis must be placed on the ideological, moral, and professional qualities of workers, their political authority, and their active stance in the struggle for restructuring, rather than on the post they occupy. Communists have the right to nominate more candidates than there are vacancies in elections to all party committees.

Such a procedure for the nomination, discussion, and election of party committee members and secretaries could also be extended to the process of forming party organs—from party raykoms and gorkoms to union republic communist party central committees and the CPSU Central Committee.

To establish a standard term of service—5 years—for all party committees, starting with raykoms and gorkoms. Furthermore, the holding of elected office within the CPSU must be limited to two successive terms. Election for a third successive term can take place only at Communists' initiative and requires a preliminary decision on allowing the candidacy in the election [resheniye o dopushcheniye k vyboram]. Such a decision must be passed by not less than three-fourths of party committee members in a secret ballot.

The CPSU Central Committee bears particular responsibility in establishing the party as the political vanguard. It must develop and strengthen in every possible way the principles of collegiality in its work so as to ensure that basic questions concerning the implementation of the party's political line are decided with the participation of all Central Committee members and on the basis of broad discussion. The conference will have to examine possible proposals for new forms of collegial work by Central Committee members in the period between plenums. The ultimate purpose of all this must be to enhance the role of the party Central Committee.

In order to ensure a constant influx of fresh forces, to provide for the possibility of partially renewing the Central Committee's composition in the period between congresses. Any decisions on this score must be made by a qualified majority in a secret ballot.

To make the necessary changes in the structure and composition of the party apparatus in light of the enhancement of the party's role as political vanguard and the separation of the functions of party committees and of state and economic organs. It is necessary to implement the principle of the apparatus' strict subordination and accountability to elected party organs, and a resolute struggle must be waged against bureaucratism and communist arrogance and against unjustified secrecy in party life.

The party's cadres policy needs serious renewal in the conditions of democratization. The formal nomenklatura approach toward the selection and placement of cadres has outlived its usefulness. The basic method of party committees' work must be to organize the training and retraining of cadres, to educate them, and to recommend Communists and nonparty people alike for leadership posts. The final decision on cadre questions must be determined by election results.

It would be expedient for the conference to examine the question of improving control and auditing work within the party. At present there is the CPSU Central Auditing Commission and the CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee. A proposal is submitted to have just one organ in the future, which would be elected by the party congress and would monitor Communists' adherence to the demands of party discipline and the CPSU Statutes and the financial and economic activity of party organs.

The aim of all these proposals must be the consistent observance of democratic principles in internal party life and the boosting of the party's militancy and its ability to head the processes of Soviet society's revolutionary renewal and to set the tone for restructuring.

6. The main direction of the democratization of our society and state is to fully restore the role and powers of soviets of people's deputies as sovereign organs of popular representation.

V.I. Lenin saw the soviets, born out of the experience of revolution in Russia, as a political form according with the nature of socialism. Being simultaneously representative organs of power and mass organizations of the population, the soviets organically combine within themselves the principles of statehood and self-management. Possessing tremendous democratic potential, they have demonstrated their viability and have confirmed the correctness of Lenin's discovery.

At the same time, we can see serious shortcomings in the activity of the soviets and the working people's dissatisfaction with their work. As a result of certain distortions, the rights and powers of representative organs have been curtailed and unwarranted tutelage of them by party committees persists. In many cases, ministries and departments go over their heads in resolving questions of economic and social development. Ispolkoms and their apparatus often usurp the functions of the soviets, leaving deputies merely to sanction questions which have in fact been decided in advance. It is necessary to change this situation fundamentally, to restore the soviets' real governing [vlastnyy] powers, and to refer for their examination and solution all concrete questions of state, economic, and sociocultural life without exception.

The material and financial potential of local soviets should be substantially expanded. It is necessary to ensure that local budget revenues are formed on the basis of long-term norms, the intention being primarily to expand receipts to the budgets of grassroots soviets from enterprises and economic organizations located on their territory. The complete responsibility and autonomy of local organs of power in resolving questions of the development of territories must be established, with extensive use being made of economically accountable, contractual, and other types of mutual relations with enterprises and organizations, regardless of their subordination. It is necessary to persistently eradicate interference by superior organs of power and management in the solution of questions which fall within the competence of lower-level local soviets and also to eliminate the numerous cases of unnecessary coordination.

The correct organization of relations between local soviets and labor collective councils is acquiring special significance. Here it is necessary to proceed on the basis that the soviet of people's deputies is the coordinator of the development and fulfillment of plans for the social development of enterprises, kolkhozes, and sovkhozes and the deepening of democratic principles of production management and the protector of the population's interests against what V.I. Lenin called excessive "departmental zeal."

The change in the functions of the soviets and the need for a more thorough and competent examination of questions requires that the duration of their sessions be extended. Provision must be made for releasing a percentage of deputies from their official or production duties for the full elected term or for a period for work in the soviets, standing commissions, and electoral okrugs.

The glasnost and openness of the activity of the soviets must be expanded as much as possible. Soviet sessions must be freely accessible to citizens and representatives of the mass media and the results of sessions' work must be systematically brought to the attention of voters and the population.

It is necessary to establish the real supremacy of soviets over executive organs. It must be laid down that workers of management organs accountable to the soviet cannot be deputies at the same time. This rule must be extended to people belonging to republic Councils of Ministers and, with rare exceptions, to members of the all-union government, as well as to judges, state arbitrators, and prosecutors. Management organ officials must be appointed by the soviets, as a rule, after appropriate conclusions have been reached by standing commissions.

Provision should be made for the creation of soviet presidiums within local soviets (except rural and settlement soviets); these presidiums would assume concern for the organization of the activity of deputies, coordinate the work of standing commissions and deputies' groups, and, in the period between sessions, monitor the work of ispolkoms. At the same time, it is expedient to focus the functions of ispolkoms on economic management and executive activity.

A uniform term of office for all soviets throughout the country— 5 years— should be established to ensure greater continuity and fruitfulness in the work of the deputies.

The transfer to the soviets of full power from the bottom to the top also presupposes a cardinal enhancement of the role of the country's supreme organ of power. Its structure and activity must take full account of the accumulated experience of the functioning of the Soviet political system, including the practice that existed under V.I. Lenin of congresses of soviets and the USSR Central Executive Committee. Various options and proposals are possible here. Some of them have already been put forward during the current debate: on increasing the duration of the work of sessions of the supreme organ of power; on the clear separation of powers and on overcoming the lack of functional identity of the chambers; on electing some deputies directly from social organizations forming part of our society's political system, and so forth.

The introduction of a rule that no person may hold elected state office for more than two successive terms, namely 10 years, must be a serious guarantee against any violation of the Leninist principles of state life. Election for a third successive term may be at the deputies' initiative and would require a preliminary decision to allow the candidacy. This decision would have to be made by no less than three-fourths of the votes of soviet deputies in a secret ballot.

The USSR Constitution's prescription that the same citizen may not simultaneously be a deputy of more than two soviets must be strictly complied with.

In view of the need to decisively enhance the role played by soviets, the electoral system should be reformed. The aim of the reform will be to guarantee the free nomination of candidates for deputy and the extensive, all-around discussion of nominations at meetings of working people and in the mass media.

Elections must be the natural result of the expression of the will of the voters, who give preference to principled, knowledgeable, energetic people capable of worthily representing working people in organs of Soviet power and expressing the entire spectrum of their social, national, and professional interests.

Under the new conditions, a greater role will be played by the Soviet Government, as the supreme executive and administrative organ of state power, in implementing domestic and foreign policy, managing the country, and drawing up and implementing plans and long-term programs of economic, social, and cultural development.

The conference must give due attention to restructuring the system of state management in light of the processes of democratization and radical economic reform currently taking place in society. The main content of the activity of state bodies must be to create the economic and organizational-legal conditions for efficient work by all organizations and institutions. The structure and size of the apparatus must be brought into line with these functions by eliminating superfluous links. Soviets, people's control, and the public must strictly monitor the activity of management organs in order to eradicate high-handed methods of pressure, bureaucracy, and red tape. Broad glasnost and openness in the work of the management apparatus are intended to serve these aims.

In the conditions of restructuring and the democratization of Soviet society, it is necessary to fully embody Lenin's ideas on the organization of control, make control effective, and ensure that it is an instrument of direct participation by workers, peasants, the intelligentsia, and representatives of all strata of our society in the solution of state and social tasks.

In this context, it seems expedient to create a single system of social and state control subordinated to the elected organs of power. Relying on its groups within labor collectives and territorial units, such an organization could make a great contribution to implementing the tasks currently facing our people.

7. Within the framework of the restructuring of the political system, it is necessary to examine and adopt overdue measures to further develop the Soviet federation. The outstanding results of the implementation of the Leninist nationalities policy over the past 70 years since October are generally known. Tremendous work of historic importance has been done to overcome internation strife, to assert the right of nations to self-determination, to revive and develop national cultures, and to accelerate the progress of formerly backward outlying national districts. An integrated national economic complex—the material foundation of the unity of the Soviet peoples—has been formed and is functioning successfully.

At the same time, life shows that constant attention must be paid to questions of inter-nation relations and the development of each nation and ethnic group. The basis for solving these questions is provided by a political course which combines the satisfaction of the interests of all nations with their rapprochement and mutual assistance and by an internationalist ideology which is incompatible with nationalism and chauvinism.

The economic, cultural, and cadre potential of all Soviet republics and autonomous entities has now increased immeasurably and a natural growth of national self-awareness is taking place. The key to the further development of nations and, simultaneously, to the strengthening of friendship between them and to the cohesion of Soviet society lies in the organizational combination of the autonomy of union and autonomous republics and other national formations with their responsibility for union-wide state interests. In this lies our strength and the guarantee of prosperity for the country in general and each and every nation and nationality in particular.

Decentralization and the maximum devolution to local level of many management functions also apply fully to all forms of our national statehood and autonomy. Strict implementation of the provisions of the USSR Constitution and Soviet laws which guarantee the rights of union and autonomous republics and autonomous oblasts and okrugs is required here.

In practical terms, it is necessary to activate those institutions of the political system through which national interests are to be revealed and coordinated.

It is necessary to ensure that nations and ethnic groups which do not have their own state and territorial formations have greater opportunities for expressing and satisfying their needs.

The CPSU Central Committee believes that the problems which arise in inter-nation relations must be resolved on a truly democratic basis in the course of restructuring. Communists of all nationalities have always been the cementing force and soul of the great socialist union of our country's peoples. They are called upon to continue to discharge this lofty and responsible mission in the future.

8. The process of the consistent democratization of Soviet society must complete the formation of the socialist legal state as the form of organization and functioning of political power which fully accords with socialism and socialist democracy. Its fundamental trait is the supremacy and triumph of law expressing the will of the people. State and party organs, social organizations, labor collectives, all people in official positions, and all citizens must act on a strictly legal basis.

In adding the concept of "legal" to the characterization of our state of the whole people, it should once again be emphasized that it is not only the citizens who bear responsibility before the state, but also the state that bears responsibility before the citizens. It is obliged to show constant concern for strengthening the guarantees of Soviet people's rights and freedoms. This concerns the further broadening and enrichment of the social rights (to work, rest, education, health care, social security, and so forth) which the Land of the Soviets heralded to the world. It concerns the creation of material and legal conditions for realizing constitutional freedoms (freedom of speech, press, and assembly, freedom to hold rallies, street processions, and demonstrations, freedom of conscience, and others). It also concerns the strengthening of guarantees of the citizen's personal rights (inviolability of the person and the home, confidentiality of correspondence and telephone conversations, and others).

It is necessary to advance further in all these areas, revealing the potential enshrined in the nature of the socialist society and resolutely eradicating the distortions and deformations resulting from authoritarian management methods alien to the socialist system and from the departure from Leninist principles of state life.

To this end, a major legal reform must be implemented with a view to radically improving the work of all organs which are obliged to strengthen legality and defend the democratic principles of state life and the rights and freedoms of citizens. The priority measures of the legal reform include the radical enhancement of the role of justice and strict observance of the democratic principles of the legal process, the adversarial competition and equality of the parties, glasnost, and the presumption of innocence. The proposals to increase the number of people's assessors when a court tries the most important cases merit attention.

The work of the prosecutor's office must be transferred to the new regime—in accordance with Lenin's conception, it is designed to ensure effective supervision over the uniform application of the laws and firmly stand guard over the Soviet citizen's rights and interests and over compliance with state and social discipline. It is necessary to ensure that judges, prosecutors, and investigators are protected from any pressure or interference in their activity. They must be subject to the law and to the law alone.

The resolute enhancement of the militia's responsibility for combating crime and violations of public order, the broadening of the potential of state arbitration, and the increased activeness of the legal profession must serve to strengthen legality. The legal service in the national economy and the organization of universal legal education and training of the population require considerable development.

Great work must also be done to improve the codification of Soviet legislation. It is necessary, on one hand, to repeal obsolete laws and many departmental instructions which run counter to the demands of the reform of the economic and political system and have become part of the braking mechanism. On the other hand, a package of new laws must be created which accord with the needs of society and with the interests of the working people and their organizations and collectives. When renewing legislation, it is necessary to abide strictly by the principle that everything is permitted that is not prohibited by law.

9. The political system of socialism cannot function fully without relying on an extensive network of public organizations through which the interests of various social, professional, and age groups of the country's population are expressed and realized.

Trade unions, the Komsomol, cooperatives, other public organizations, scientific associations, and creative unions are called upon to play an active part in all restructuring processes and to restructure themselves, reinterpreting their positions and role, and to reveal more fully their potential in the new conditions.

During restructuring, new associations have emerged, groups of women and veterans, the Soviet Culture Foundation and Children's Foundation, and numerous self-motivated public bodies. They are the product of working people's patriotic feelings and their desire to make a direct contribution to the revolutionary transformation of society, to expand opportunities for gaining access to the valuable products of Soviet and world culture, and to help improve our people's life and protect nature and historical monuments.

At the same time, one cannot help seeing that formalism and bureaucracy have by no means been eradicated in the activity of public organizations. There are also attempts to limit their independence and order them around. To the detriment of the development of the principles of self-motivated activity, public organizations are being statized and the line of inflating the size of their staff apparatus continues.

Self-motivated, creative participation by working people themselves and the development of initiative and self-management—this is the main way to improve public organizations. As well as developing democracy inside public organizations, measures to increase their role in the political process must be thought out. They must make real use of the right of legislative initiative, have representatives in organs of power, and be partners of the state in the implementation of social programs and in the solution of problems of housing construction and public health, labor, social security, education, leisure, provision of amenities, trade, everyday life, and so on.

There is a need in the immediate future to define the legal basis of the activity of public organizations, voluntary societies, and self-motivated associations. There is just one political criterion here—any public activity that is carried out within the framework of the Constitution and does not contradict the interests of the development of the Soviet socialist society deserves recognition.

10. Restructuring in the USSR is a factor of international significance. While possessing an inner force of positive influence on the world, it needed a foreign policy that would properly express its humanist nature and demanded the democratization of our international links and a different position for the country in the worldwide division of labor.

A critical analysis of the past has shown that dogmatism and the subjectivist approach have also left a mark on our foreign policy. It was allowed to lag behind the fundamental changes in the world and new opportunities for reducing tension and for greater mutual understanding between peoples were not fully realized. In seeking strategic military parity, we did not always exploit opportunities in the past for safeguarding state security by political means and, as a result, allowed ourselves to be drawn into the arms race, which was bound to affect the country's socioeconomic development and its international status.

New thinking, consistently scientific and free from historically outdated stereotypes, was established as the foundation of foreign policy. It reflects the realities of the contemporary world—multifaceted and contradictory, with global threats to the very existence of the human race and, at the same time, with enormous potential for coexistence, cooperation, and the political solution of acute problems.

The new political thinking has made it possible to put forward a number of major ideas that have gripped the imagination of a troubled world. The chief ones are: a program for the stage-by-stage elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000, a system of all-embracing security, freedom of choice, balance of interests, a "common European home," restructuring of relations in the Asia-Pacific region, defense sufficiency and a doctrine of nonaggression, international economic security, strengthening of national and regional security by lowering the level of armaments, willingness to mutually terminate the presence of foreign forces and bases on foreign territories, confidence-building measures, and the idea of directly involving the authority of science in world politics.

This is our foreign policy credo. We have declared it without trying to impose any conditions or dogmas on anyone, but invite everyone to pool their ideas and conduct a joint quest, taking into account national and general human interests.

In the disarmament sphere we have proposed far-reaching solutions and have displayed a willingness for profound compromises. This has made it possible to achieve such major breakthroughs in world politics as Geneva and, in particular, Reykjavik, which imparted real momentum to the negotiating process and had a substantial influence on the entire international climate.

The entire style of our foreign policy activity has radically changed. Dialogue has become a distinctive feature of it. The unprecedented abundance of contacts at Soviet leadership level with the outside world—from heads of state to ordinary citizens—has essentially meant a "rediscovery" of the Soviet Union. For us it means feedback, the chance to know and understand the world better and make our policy accordingly, and to promote the formation of modern, civilized international relations.

In the priority area of relations with the socialist countries, we, along with our friends, have begun in a comradely manner to clean away the accretions of formalism and ostentation and have actually linked the principles of equality, independence, and noninterference with objective reality—the diversity of national forms of socialist society. Our internationalist links are built on the basis of mutual benefit, a balance of interests, and common responsibility for the fate and prestige of socialism and for enhancing its role in world development.

During the years of restructuring, relations have improved or have been established for the first time with a large number of states—neighboring and very distant. And relations have not been spoiled with anyone.

Mutual relations have been placed on a new footing with such influential forces in the world process as communist, social democratic, and other political parties, the Nonaligned Movement, and intellectual circles personifying the authority of science and culture.

Events have demonstrated that the new political thinking has correctly reflected the pressing needs and imperatives of the modern world. It has given hope, it has paved the way for a radical qualitative change in human consciousness, and it is increasing the real weight of world public opinion.

The incorporation of new thinking in international politics has been marked by major practical results—the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles was concluded and the withdrawal of forces from Afghanistan began on the basis of the Geneva agreements.

The definite improvement of Soviet-American relations, as symbolized by the summit meetings, makes it possible to hope for a fundamental turn toward the elimination of the nuclear threat. The multilateral negotiating process which we have been actively stimulating is bringing a ban on chemical weapons closer and creating an opportunity for easing the dangerous confrontation between the two most powerful military alliances—NATO and the Warsaw Pact Organization— and cutting conventional armaments and armed forces in Europe.

We are not disregarding the militarist danger inherent in imperialism. This determines Soviet defense building, whose effectiveness must henceforth be ensured by primarily qualitative parameters with regard to both hardware and personnel. The influence of the realities of the modern world and the possible modifications of a number of objective factors that have given rise to war make it possible to think that the safeguarding of the security of states will increasingly move out of the sphere of the correlation of military potentials into the sphere of politics, the primacy of law, and common human morality in the fulfillment of international commitments.

The radical economic reform and the new approach to foreign economic ties have brought about the beginnings of the country's more effective inclusion in the world economy.

On the basis of the first 3 years of restructuring, the main question which concerns our people and all the peoples most of all—has it been possible to diminish the threat of war?—can undoubtedly be answered in the affirmative. The direct threat of a war involving the major powers has diminished. The international position of the Soviet Union has notably improved, and not through a building up of strength but by increasing trust in our country. The situation in the world has become more stable and predictable. The prospect of curbing the arms race with all its consequences—including the reduction of the burden of military spending—has become more realistic.

Possibilities are opening up for opposing the threat to peace on a broader social and political basis than before and creating the grounds for resolving mankind's global problems through the joint efforts of the world community. The CPSU will act vigorously and persistently for the sake of these goals.

The path toward a qualitatively new state of Soviet society and a new face of socialism lies through revolutionary restructuring, the democratization of life in the ideological, political, economic, and social spheres, and the transformation of the political system.

It is necessary to revive in all their profound significance the principles of scientific socialism, in which man—in deed rather than words—is the major factor of material and spiritual development and its goal.

The party will build its policy by clearly basing itself on the humane principles and goals of socialism and seek to achieve the implementation of its policy by humane and democratic means.

Real life and the dialectics of social development will, of course, contribute much that is new to present-day ideas about the paths of socialist transformations and enable us to refine and enrich them. On a number of questions it will be necessary to make amendments to the USSR Constitution and legislation and to make certain decisions at party congress level.

In submitting these considerations for discussion, the CPSU Central Committee counts on the active participation of Communists and all working people in the discussion. This will make it possible for the 19th All-Union Party Conference to make well-thought-out decisions whose implementation will accelerate our resolute progress and make revolutionary restructuring irreversible.

Further on Supreme Soviet Session Activities

Cooperative Law Adopted

LD2605150788 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1101 GMT 26 May 88

[Relay of the joint Supreme Soviet session on construction and the draft Law on Cooperative Associations held in the Kremlin—live]

[Text] [Avgust Eduardovich Voss, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet] Comrades deputies: I declare the joint session of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities opened. We continue our work.

At separate session of the chambers the examination of the question about the work of local Soviet and economic organs in ensuring the fulfillment of the program of housing and public amenities construction in light of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress was completed. Thirty people spoke in the discussion. We have to adopt decisions on the question that has been examined. You have the draft decision. Have deputies any remarks, anything to add, or any amendments for this draft? There are no remarks, additions, or amendments. Then, allow me to put it to a vote. Deputies of both chambers to vote at the same time. Those in favor of the proposed decision raise your hands. Hands down, please. Against? None. Abstained? Also none. The decision of the USSR Supreme Soviet on this question has been adopted.

Comrades Deputies, we have to complete the examination of the question on the draft Law on Cooperatives in the USSR. The Agro-Industrial Complex Commission and the Legislative Proposals Commission, on the recommendation of the chambers, examined jointly with representatives of the USSR Government the proposals made by deputies during the examination of the draft law. Deputy Aleskeyev Filipovich Ponomarev, chairman of the Commission of the Agro-Industrial complex of the Soviet of the Union, is to report on behalf of the commissions:

[Ponomarev] Comrade deputies: The discussion of the draft Law on Cooperatives in the USSR has ended. On the whole there has been approval for it. The proposals submitted by the permanent commissions have also been supported. In all, 23 deputies spoke. They referred to a number of principled questions of cooperative construction and expressed many interesting ideas concerning various aspects of cooperative activity. They are unanimous in their opinion of the good timing and the urgent need for adopting such a law which is required to play a big role in developing cooperation in our country.

A great number of proposals have been made during discussion of the bill. All of them have been thoughtfully worked through and discussed in the permanent Agro-Industrial Complex Commissions and in the Legislative Proposals Commissions of the chambers with the participation of government representatives.

Allow me to report to you on the results of this work. Deputy Pisar proposed adding to Point 3, Article 9 that the cooperatives be granted the right to participate in road construction and in providing amenities for inhabited localities. It has been deemed expedient to add to Point 3, Article 9 the clause that the cooperatives have the right to participate in road construction, and in this connection to draft paragraph 5 of this point in the next edition. Cooperatives have the right to participate in the construction and utilization of farming facilities, residential houses and other production, social, cultural and community facilities, as well as those in road construction.

Concerning the proposal about participation of cooperatives in providing all proper amenities for inhabited localities, this has been taken into account in Point 3, Article 9, where it is noted that the cooperatives have the right to participate in the construction of social, cultural and community facilities.

Deputy Shegeda submitted a proposal not to prescribe compulsory establishment of centralized funds at the expense of cooperative funds. This proposal has been taken into account in Point 3, Article 18. At the same time the permanent commissions of the Chambers deemed it necessary to protect the cooperatives from the interference of state bodies in establishing their funds and reserves. In this connection it is proposed to set forth Point 2 of Article 18 in the next edition.

A cooperative independently determines the kind, size, and order of establishing and utilizing of funds and reserve. The state and cooperative bodies do not set up the normatives for the establishment of the funds for a cooperative.

Many deputies expressed a wish to extend the rights of local soviets in the sphere of taxation. The commissions made a decision about taking these proposals into account. In this connection Point 2, Article 19, Paragraph 5 should be drafted as follows: For the purposes of stimulating the output of production, jobs, and services essential for the population and the national economy and for the purposes of reducing their prices and tariffs, local soviets of people's deputies and other state bodies can establish tax concessions on the income of cooperatives, their members, and also persons who are working for them on labor contract in accordance with the procedure determined by USSR legislation.

The speeches made by deputies Orlov, (Krasmankovyy), Primakov, Tarazevich, Gladiy, (Voskanyan), and others expressed criticism and suggestions about the need to conduct a flexible taxation policy in the cooperatives, and the need for more glasnost when deciding these matters. A new decree on taxation is now being formulated. It will be prepared with due account being taken of the discussion that has taken place during the session. This applies also to the amounts of the tax rates, which must correspond to the interests of the cooperative movement and to the principles of social justice in society. The main feature of the decree is that it will ensure a differentiated approach to taxation, taking as its starting point the development of the cooperatives, all kinds of changes in the situation of the market for goods and services, as well as the activities of different kinds of cooperatives, so that, in a word, the new statute does not damage anyone's interests, either those of cooperative members or those of the state.

Quite a few proposals have been received, whose implementation will evidently require the adoption of government enactments. These proposals will be forwarded to the USSR Council of Ministers for the adoption of appropriate measures, and deputies will be informed of them.

For example, Deputy Metonidze raised the question of the need to draft a list of the kinds of work that cooperatives are forbidden to do. The government has it all in hand. A list of that kind will soon be established.

In their speeches Deputies Veldi, Kulikov, Ruben, Kolomiyets, Tarazevich, and Kazatova referred to the mechanism whereby cooperative prices are formed, and the need to eliminate violations of equivalency in the interrelations between cooperatives and state organizations. There was also talk of the need for a more active use, in close coordination, of such economic levers as prices, taxes, profit, and credit. In our view some of these questions have been resolved in the final draft of the law, while the other proposals, that relate to the competence of government bodies will be forwarded to the USSR Council of Ministers for consideration in accordance with established procedure.

A significant number of proposals concerned management of the process of improving the mechanism of farm cooperatives. Analysis has shown that to deal with many of the questions raised, which are basically most correct and interesting, there is no need to insert any additions or amplifications into the draft law, or they can be resolved on the basis of the norms that it already contains, or which are present in legislation that is already in force. This refers to the creation of an all-union council of cooperatives, the development of cooperatives at union republic level, the creation of independent cooperatives, the lifting of restrictions on the use of their own funds by consumer cooperatives' local bodies, the strengthening of the monitoring of output quality and prices, as well as a number of other things.

Comrades Metonidze, Shegeda, (Luchinskiy), Veldi, and others who spoke did in effect support the commissions' proposals for the insertion into the draft law of a clause giving kolkhozes complete independence regarding production planning and retailing. Some speeches, however, Comrade Ruben's in particular, cast doubt on the ability to ensure that state orders are actually accepted on a voluntary basis. It would seem that Article 31 of the revised law guarantees that.

The speech by Deputy Ignatyuk suggested that provisions should be made in Point 4 of Article 27 of the draft for a right on the part of trade unions to monitor the observance of labor legislation. This right is stipulated in Article 5 of the draft, in which it says that social and economic matters relating to the activities of cooperatives are worked out and adopted with the participation of trade union and other public organizations in accordance with their charter and the legislation.

A number of speeches dealt with the improvement of material and technical supplies to cooperatives. Deputies (Primakov) specifically stressed the need for creating equitable conditions in this respect for cooperatives and state enterprises. Measures ensuring the resolution of that matter are partially stipulated in the law with respect to state orders and will also be implemented during the development of the wholesale trade.

Deputy Blokhina requested the commission to make provision in the bill for underage children not to be recruited to work unconnected with the teaching of labor skills appropriate to their age in the practice of family contracting, and also for the requirements of the protection of their health to be strictly observed. It seems to us that legal protection of minors' interests is necessary, but this question is fully covered by existing labor legislation, and the point is that it should be strictly observed by everyone.

There were questions which can be described as being of a procedural nature concerning the practice of establishment of cooperatives. They can be amplified in the rough charters and detailed charters of specific cooperatives. At the same time the commissions did not deem it possible to recommend a number of deputies' proposals for adoption by the Supreme Soviet. This concerns the proposal to deprive public catering cooperatives of the right to acquire products from the retail network and to make them base their work on raw materials which they produce themselves or buy on the market. If such a proposal were to be agreed to, the cooperatives would be left without sugar, groats, tea, and many other products and would be forced to cease their activity.

A proposal was submitted that the draft should not contain a note saying that a kolkhoz's expulsion of members may be appealed against in court but that the inoperative procedure should be applied whereby these questions are settled only by a general assembly. It seems that the procedure provided by law is more democratic and will better protect the rights of citizens.

A proposal was made to amplify Article 30 of Point 7 with the following clause: For the purpose of achieving maximum effectiveness in the cooperation of kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and other cooperatives and enterprises on the scale of the administrative rayon, a cooperative, state cooperative, agro-industrial association acting as a single production and economic complex may be created on a democratic basis. It should be said that this point envisages the creation of such formations and does not need to be amplified.

A number of questions by deputies are not directly related to the bill under discussion and will be conveyed to the appropriate bodies by the established procedure for examination.

Permit me to dwell further on the following problem. This is the question of the schedules for introduction of conditions of fixing pensions for kolkhozniks of equal value to those established for blue- and white-collar workers. As you know, initially it was noted that this should be settled as of 1 January 1991. In their findings the commissions proposed that the solution to this problem be speeded up. This is how the question was presented also at the session and in a number of speeches. But it is not at all easy to do this, and there may be different approaches to this. Hence it is understandable that heated discussion took place. Taking into account the fact that in the near future it is planned to examine a new bill on pensions, the commissions adopted the decision to include in the draft resolution of the USSR Supreme Soviet a clause on priority introduction of new conditions of pension provision precisely for kolkhozniks.

In this connection it is proposed to exclude from Point 1, Part 2, of the draft resolution of the USSR Supreme Soviet on procedure for bringing into effect the law of the USSR on cooperatives the words: conditions of pension provision for kolkhozniks and crediting them with time worked on the Kolkhoz during their working life in allocation of state pensions and assistance in accordance with state insurance.

At the same time it is necessary to amplify Point 1 of the bill with a new part to Note 2, to read as follows: The USSR Council of Ministers, in drafting a new law on pension provision for working people, is to envisage the priority implementation of conditions, as established by Point 5, Article 22, of the USSR bill on cooperatives, for pension provision for kolkhozniks and crediting them with time worked on the kolkhoz during their working life in allocation of state pensions and assistance in accordance with state social insurance.

The commissions propose that the USSR Law on Cooperatives in the USSR should be passed, taking into account those amendments and supplements which have been set out in the commissions' resolution and also in the proposals by the deputies, voiced at the session and supported by the standing commissions, as I have reported to you. It is also proposed to adopt a decision by the USSR Supreme Soviet on the procedure for putting into operation the USSR law on the cooperative movement in the USSR, as amended and supplemented by the standing commissions. These are the proposals I have been instructed by the standing commissions to report to the USSR Supreme Soviet.

[Voss] Are there any questions for Comrade Ponomarev from the deputies? There are no questions. Then, permit us to move to the adoption of decisions. You have the draft Law on Cooperatives and also the draft decision on the procedure for putting this law into practice. In his speech Comrade Ponomarev announced amendments to the draft law and a decision which the standing commissions propose for adoption.

Permit me to put to the vote the amendments to the draft law. The deputies of the Soviet of the Union are voting. I ask those who are for adoption of the amendments to raise their hands. [video shows deputies raising hands] Please lower them. Against? None. Has anyone abstained? None. The amendments are adopted by the Soviet of Nationalities [corrects himself], the amendments are accepted by the Soviet of the Union.

The deputies of the Soviet of Nationalities are voting. I ask: Who are for the proposed amendments to the draft Law on Cooperatives? [video shows deputies raising hands] Please lower them. Against? None. There are no abstentions, either. The amendments are also accepted by the Soviet of Nationalities. Thus, the amendments proposed by the standing commissions to the draft Law on Cooperatives are adopted.

We are putting to the vote the amendment to the draft decision proposed by the standing commissions. The deputies of both chambers will vote simultaneously. I ask those who are for adoption of this amendment to raise their hands. Please lower them. Who is against? None. Has anyone abstained? Also none. Consequently the amendment is adopted.

Now we must agree on the procedure for voting on the draft Law on Cooperatives and the decision on the procedure for its implementation. There is a proposal to vote on both these drafts as a whole. Are there no objections or other proposals? No? Then, I will put to the vote the draft Law on Cooperatives with the amendments which have been inserted into it.

Deputies of the Soviet of the Union are voting. I ask those who are for the adoption of this law to raise their hands. [video shows deputies raising their hands] Please lower them. Anyone against? No. Any abstentions? No. The law is accepted by the Soviet of the Union.

The deputies of the Soviet of Nationalities are voting. I ask those who are for the adoption of the law to raise their hands. [video shows deputies raising their hands], Who is against? None. Has anyone abstained? Also no. The law is accepted by the Soviet of Nationalities.

So, the Law on Cooperatives in the USSR has been adopted by the Supreme Soviet.

The draft decision of the USSR Supreme Soviet on the procedure for implementing the Law on Cooperatives in the USSR with the inserted amendment is put to the vote. The deputies of both chambers will vote simultaneously. I ask those who are for adoption of the decision on this matter to raise their hands. [video shows hands raised] Please lower them. Against? None. Abstentions? None. The decision is adopted by the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Terebilov Addresses Meeting

PM2705153788 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
27 May 88 Second Edition pp 3-4

["Report on Activity of USSR Supreme Court: Report by V. I. Terebilov, Chairman of the USSR Supreme Court"]

[Text] Esteemed Comrade Deputies: The plenum of our party Central Committee held in February this year made a new contribution to the revolutionary restructuring of the life of our state. At the plenum, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev stressed in particular that the policy for the further deepening of democratization of society presupposes a consistent strengthening of socialist legality. This means that the work of the USSR Supreme Court also needs additional improvement, taking account of new legislation, new thinking, and a new approach to the appraisal of many questions concerning state and public life.

What have we done to accomplish that? First of all, I deem it necessary to note that in recent years, the Supreme Court has begun to hear cases, on a considerably more frequent basis, as a court of first instance; in other words, to really fulfill its important legal function.

Such a turning point in the work of the Supreme Court is explained by the fact that, during restructuring and renewal, an uncompromising struggle has begun in the country against violations of state discipline, corruption and embezzlement. The party and the people have demanded that the custodians of the law consistently implement the constitutional principle of equality of all before the law. Under these conditions, it was deemed essential to take a number of major and complicated issues under the direct proceedings of the Supreme Court. Former ministers of union republics, light industry in the RSFSR, and the cotton cleaning industry of the Azerbaijan and Uzbek Union Republics, as well as the former secretary of Bukhara Obkom, the USSR deputy minister of foreign trade, and others were condemned and given severe but just punishments.

I mention these matters since those individuals took advantage of the absence of control and engaged in bribery, embezzlement and other crimes for a long period of time. Considerable quantities of valuables acquired by criminal means were confiscated from them. The stated legal processes are a true confirmation of the course of the 27th party congress for the unconditional equality of all before the law, all, regardless of the posts they hold.

We believe that among the cases heard by the Supreme Court, one should also mention the legal proceedings over the accident at the Chernobyl AES, the shipwreck involving the steamship "Admiral Nakhimov," the unlawful and socially dangerous flight over Soviet territory by FRG citizen Rust, and cases of especially dangerous crimes and espionage heard by the military collegium of the Supreme Court. I cite these cases and legal proceedings, as they have made it possible not only to justly punish the guilty, but to demand from the corresponding ministries, departments, and officials the decisive removal of negative phenomena that facilitate criminal acts.

Another important direction in the Supreme Court's activity is the monitoring, in its exclusive, or as it is officially called, "supervisory capacity," of the most complex and important cases previously examined directly by the supreme courts of union republics. In connection with complaints lodged between 1984 and 1987, more then 6,000 court cases were examined by the Supreme Court in its supervisory capacity. More than 5,000 cases were studied as part of the generalization of judicial practices, and a considerable number of others were studied on the instructions of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium in connection with petitions for pardons. As a result of the review of these cases, the Supreme Soviet fully rehabilitated 443 people. Cases involving 454 individuals were sent for new examination or investigation. Sentences and decisions concerning 994 people were changed.

These figures are considerably higher than those for the previous period. They show that the restructuring of the Supreme Soviet's work has been moving toward a more thorough study of cases and a more exacting attitude toward the assessment of materials and preliminary judicial investigation, and thus, it is moving toward a more attentive and just resolution of complaints.

To a certain extent, this practice of the Supreme Court has begun to be reflected positively in the quality of work done by the courts of union republics. However, at the same time, attention must be drawn to the fact that more than half of the annulled sentences and decisions were from courts in the Azerbaijan, Armenian, Kirghiz, and Moldavian Republics. This testifies to the fact that a considerably higher number of judicial errors were made in the courts of those republics. Blame, of course, also rests with us; the USSR Supreme Court and the Ministry of Justice must take additional steps to improve the quality of judicial work in the courts of those republics. By revoking and amending sentences in its supervisory capacity, the Supreme Court has attempted not only to correct mistakes in specific cases, but, through its decisions, to direct the courts how to implement the law correctly in various categories of cases.

At the same time, we must not ignore the fact that many judicial mistakes, especially in cases of malfeasance in office and economic crimes, have been a distinctive reflection, let us say, of "distortions" in the economic policy of the 1970's—in other words, of the excess centralization of management and the unwarranted rigid regulation of the activities of economic leaders. This has often given rise to formal violation of instructions and orders and, unfortunately, the courts considered such violations sufficient to pass sentence. There was a case in Kazakhstan, involving the chairman of the "Luch Vostoka" kolkhoz, that was an instance of an obvious ignoring of, for example, kolkhoz democracy. He was sentenced to a long term of deprivation of freedom for paying bonuses to the most active participants in social production. As the kolkhoz was unprofitable, he was not supposed to do that, according to the instructions in effect. The public prosecutor's office and then the court, too, described the chairman's activity as a large-scale waste of public funds. In fact, the convicted individual had acted unselfishly and the main thing was that the decision to go ahead with the payments was made by the kolkhoz board, that is, the legal managers of the kolkhoz finances, andconfirmed by a general meeting. On the basis of this information, the plenum of the Supreme Court revoked the sentence. It is necessary to say that this decision, requiring a new, nonformalistic assessment of the situation, was not an easy one at the Supreme Court—well, it was not unanimous, anyway.

Judges, among whom the stereotypes of old and formal evaluations based on normative documents which contradict the constitution are preserved, also have to master the new thinking.

The question of strengthening legality in the armed forces also occupied its due place in the activity of the Supreme Court. Unfortunately, so-called "nonregulation" interrelations amongst servicemen that is, actions connected with disrespect for the person of young servicemen, caused not a little loss in the prestige of the armed forces and the strengthening of military discipline.

It must be admitted that the military bench of the USSR Supreme Court also did not always in the past react to such facts with the requisite urgency. Taking their particular danger into account, the military bench, in contact with the command, political bodies and bodies of the military procuracy, is now taking steps aimed at an effective campaign against these negative phenomena.

During the years of restructuring, the Supreme Soviet began to devote significantly more attention to appeals against illegal convictions for particularly dangerous crimes of state in the thirties and forties. Over the past 3 years, the Supreme Soviet has rehabilitated about 400 people in such cases. In the current year, for example, the sentence in one of the more important of such cases—the accusations against Nikolay Bukharin, Aleksey Rykov, and some other former officials of the state and party apparatus—has been repealed. A review of this case showed that the accusation against the individuals charged with espionage and other crimes of state was unfounded, and that the evidence which figured in the court was fabricated.

It will be necessary to see this work through to the end.

Speaking of the restructuring of work relating to the discharge of the supervisory function, we see clearly that we have done far from everything in this area. Instances still occur when an appeal is finally resolved only on the second or even third approach by the interested parties to the USSR Supreme Court. The organization of analytical work on appeals is in need of improvement.

We see these and other shortcomings, and will certainly take steps to remove them.

Comrade Deputies! Another important direction in the work of the Supreme Court is the giving to courts of guiding explanations on the correct and uniform application of existing laws. With these aims in mind the Supreme Court periodically studies various categories of matters and on the basis of such study gives the courts explanations on how in practice it is necessary to apply various laws. Among such explanations, which are of fundamental significance for ;the restructuring of judicial work, we include, for example, the USSR Supreme Court 18 April 1986 Plenum resolution of "On improving the activity of the courts in upholding the law and strenghthening legality in light of the 27th CPSU Congress decisions. In that resolution the work of a number of courts including the Belorussian, that of the Uzbek Republic, and of Irkutsk and Rostov Oblasts, was subjected to sharp criticism for serious shortcomings and instances of direct violations of the laws, and you obviously know these instances well from reports in the press. In the same decision the Supreme Court stressed that the principle of the independence of judges, established in the Constitution, and their subordination only to the law, obliges them to resolutely put a stop to and to reject any attempts at interference in resolving legal matters, regardless of their origination.

Having it in mind that the crudest violation of legality is an unjustified conviction, the plenum demanded that in every such case there should be a full restoration of the honor and dignity of a citizen, his work, property, housing, and other rights, and also that measures should be taken to call to account those guilty in the unjustified conviction. In this same connection it is proposed to courts to pay special attention to checking statements about unlawful methods of investigation; the impermissibility is pointed out of belittling the role of members of the legal profession and of infringing their procedural rights.

We regard the monitoring of the implementation of this decision as our most important task and to a certain extent consider it the starting-point of restructuring legal work. Last year the plenum adopted decisions aimed at improving the effectiveness of legal procedures on matters of embezzlement, bribery and distortion. In these decisions attention is focused in particular not only on the need to bring legally to account all those guilty but also on the need for full compensation for material loss.

This perhaps is now the weakest place in the struggle again mercenary crimes. You see, unfortunately the loss from them is repaid by only approximately one-half. In this respect the bodies of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs can do a great deal. I think the USSR ministry of Justice and Ministry of Finance ought to review the system and method of pay for the work of court officers. A bonus system for paying for their work will undoubtedly make it possible to return to athe state tens of millions of rubles.

Taking into account the growing significance of ecological problems, the Supreme Court plenum reviewed questions of the fulfillment by courts of the USSR Supreme Soviet resolution of 3 July 1985 "On the observance of the requirements of the law on nature protection and the rational use of natural resources."

The study of this problem showed that the courts sometimes do not investigate sufficiently deeply the causes of violations of nature-protection legislation and in this connection they leave unpunished the senior officials responsible for violations, confining themselves to the punishment of minor officials, or as we sometimes say, the "small fry."

Against the background of the measures that are being adopted and that are aimed at reducing the sales and consumption of alcoholic drinks, special concern is evoked by the growth of speculation in alcoholic drinks and home-distilling. The number of home-distillers who were convicted in 1987 was 88,000. This is not a small number. Clearly, the emphasis must be placed on economic sanctions. Therefore courts have been instructed in particular to strictly observe the requirement of the law on confiscation of the property of those who are engaged in home-distilling for the purposes of sale. And, of course, additional measures are needed for regulating the trade in alcoholic drinks.

The Supreme Court links all this work closely with the measures for raising the efficiency of judicial activity in the struggle against drug addiction and abuse of toxic substances. In 1987 more than 26,000 people were convicted of crimes connected with narcotics. The civic rights of 30,000 alcoholics and drug-users have been restricted. The number of persons sent for compulsory treatment has grown considerably. However, all this will clearly have a little effect if labor collectives, the Komsomol, trade unions and, above all, medical establishments do not join in the struggle against homedistilling and drug abuse.

As before, juvenile crime is a serious problem. The number of such crimes remains considerable. Of the total of all 1987 convictions, the proportion of teenagers has even grown somewhat and has reached almost 10 percent. This means that every tenth criminal is a minor. The study of legal cases and on-the-spot visits shows that many parents still do not educate their children and that the level of educational work in a number of educational institutions is low. The plenum has pointed out the necessity of not only bringing to light in each such case in a thorough manner data about the personality of the accused, about conditions of his life and education, but mainly, and without fail, to reveal and to severely punish those adults who have drawn teenagers into criminal activity. Particular stress is put on the idea of the need for an especially well-balanced approach toward meting out to those who are under age a punishment connected with the deprivation of liberty.

Recently a USSR Supreme Court plenum discussed important categories of criminal and civil cases connected with the acceleration of scientific and technical progress. In particular, courts were given directives on questions of the application of the law: on discoveries, inventions, rationalizers' suggestions, and disputes connected with state purchases of agricultural produce. The USSR Supreme Court coordinated the elaboration of recommendations on these questions with the USSR State Board of Arbitration, the USSR Gosagroprom, and the AUCCTU.

Taking account of the growth in foreign economic ties, and with the aim of ensuring strict observance of legislation regulating this sphere, there was discussion in the Supreme Court of the procedure of examining appeals and protests against the decisions of the USSR Chamber of commerce and Industry Maritime Arbitration Commission. In 1987 rulings were also giaven on the courts' use of the law relating to the protection of the USSR economic zone. Critically analyzing this part of our work, one must admit that the Supreme Court has not always responded in good time to the requirements of judicial procedure on legislative interpretations. To eliminate these defects, we must evidently ensure closer contact with staff on the ground, and wider discussion of the drafts of our decisions.

In the conditions of the restructuring being carried out in the country, strengthening legality in the sphere of civic legal relations is assuming special significance. It is enough to say that every year about 3 million civil cases on the most diverse legal principles are brought to court. The vital needs of Soviet citizens are behind each of these cases. The Supreme Court has recently given no lttle attention, in particular, to labor, housing, and also divorce cases.

Taking into account the great significance currently attributed to issues relating to strengthening the family, a painstaking study has been made of the procedure for examining divorce cases. The plenum gave appropriate interpretations to the courts. In particular, it warned courts against being too hasty in reviewing such cases, and recommended that all permissible measures should be taken to reconcile the parties, bearing in mind that almost 80 percent of those who get a divorce have children who are minors, and that we must ensure that their rights and interests are protected.

Unfortunately, only very modest results have been achieved in resolving this problem. Of nearly 1 million—or more accurately 977,000—divorce cases which reached the courts in 1987, less than 15 percent were dropped, mainly due to reconciliation of the parties. This statistic can hardly be described as an optimistic one.

Housing disputes are undoubtedly another important category of civil case. We are all aware that in just the last 3 years nearly 10 million families have received new housing conditions. This is a remarkable and real achievement. Nevertheless, there are a very large number of housing disputes. The decision adopted at the April 1987 plenum of the Supreme Courts directs courts toward undeviatingly protecting citizens' rights to housing, while at the same time drawing their attention to the need decisively to put an end to unlawful actions by individual citizens and officials entailing the destruction of housing. Housing must be looked after, just like any other valuable state property. All violations of the law are punishable in our country. However, thinking back I find it hard to recall an instance of anyone's being punished for damaging or failing to maintain the housing stock.

Substantial changes were recently introduced into labor legislation. The USSR Supreme Court discussed this question and oriented the courts to ensuring precise implementation of the new legal norms, in order, on the one hand, to prevent violation of democratic methods of self-management of labor collectives, while at the same time ensuring full protection of the labor rights of each individual citizen. It would, perhaps, be apposite to say here that in 1987 the courts reinstated 17,000 manual and office workers whom they judged to have been unfairly dismissed (out of the 36,000 who had appealed to the courts).

Analyzing critically the procedure for settling civil cases in the courts, it must be admitted that many of them are examined several times over and it often takes many months to reach a final verdict. The USSR Ministry of Justice, together with the USSR Supreme Court, must eliminate this serious shortcoming in judicial activity.

The Supreme Court plenum heard reports on individual issues by virtually all chairmen of the Supreme Courts of the union republics, by way of monitoring the implementation of decisions adopted. In so doing, attention was drawn to serious shortcomings in application of legislation, and measures to eliminate these were recommended. But it must be admitted self-critically that the very checks and decisions that we took on them were sometimes formal in character. Has the restructuring of judical activity already yielded any improvements, any results? This is no simple and easy question. But I think that in spite of all the difficulties, and all the acuteness of the problem, we nevertheless have grounds to talk about some changes for the better which have taken shape. in the past 3 years. What are these? Firstly, the organizational, social, economic and legal measures being taken by the party and state have, in our ivew, already exerted a perceptible influence on the level and synamics of convictions. Suffice it to say that last year 380,000 fewer people were convicted than in 1984, for example. This, of course, is not only the result of a reduction in crime: wider application of administrative measures and amnesties, and a number of other causes, have been influential here. But even given all these circumstances, it seems to us that the tendency to reject use of judicial sanctions in the case of petty offenses is correct, in our opinion. The results of this can, and, it seems to us, must, be reckoned as an asset of restructuring.

Second, last year there was approximately a one-third reduction in the number of persons condemned for grave crimes. Restructuring can also be given the credit for this. Of course, one cannot be complacent about this. Unfortunately, in the last few months of this year already there have appeared signs of a growth in theft and certain other crimes. This is a very alarming sign, and so the tasks of further stepping up crime prevention are of especially important significance.

Third, there is no doubt that in the past few years the courts have become more exacting in their appraisal of materials of preliminary investigation. Last year alone, the courts rightly returned for additional investigation some 70,000 criminal cases, and the courts have returned not guilty verdicts nearly twice as frequently as in previous years. We consider that restructuring should also be given the credit for raising the exactingness toward the quality of materials of preliminary investigation. We think a significant role in this has been played by the new, higher level of glasnost and the extremely active position on this question of the mass media. Even if one takes into account the fact that some journalists are not always absolutely objective in their treatment of certain facts, the benefit from their participation in the struggle for strengthening legality is not to be doubted.

Instances of violations and judicial errors have fallen but they do still occur, and this does not lessen the acuteness of the problem itself.

It is necessary to work increasingly actively to achieve the strict observance in the legal process of the principle of the adversarial system, the equality of the sides,k the presumption of innocence, and the strict observance of all other democratic principles of judicial proceedings.

Fourth. as you know, one of the main tasks facing the courts is not only the just punishment of lawbreakers but also their reeducation. For this, there is tremendous significance in the correct, well-considered practice of deciding punishment for crime. Taking this into account, the courts have been orientated toward the need for a better thought-out and more well-founded application of deprivation of liberty toward persons who are capable of being corrected without isloation from society. What are the results? The level of sentences of deprivation of liberty fell last year compared with the year 1984 by 1 and 1/2 times, or more precisely from 49 percent to 34 percent. In our opinion this, too, is a correct trend. Our state does not need unjustifiably harsh punishments, but of course it is necessary to monitor attentively to ensure that judicial practice does not "slide" toward unjustified liberalism toward criminals.

In connection with what I have said, I should like to state one more small observation. Recently we had a rather unusual case. The accused refused at the investigation the application of an amnesty to them and demanded an open court, considering themselves innocent. This is an interesting sign of confidence in the courts. You remember further that Vladimir Ilich Lenin said that there was no need to fear the courts and glasnost. He said our courts were proletarian. It is very important for us that Soviet citizens should trust the Soviet courts. This is something we should strive for in the course of restructuring.

While describing some notable advances and trends as positive, we certainly do not mean to say that the remaining tasks have already been settled. No, we are still very alarmed at the quality of court examination. For in 1987 alone the higher courts repealed the sentences relating to nearly 30,000 convicted persons. This means some courts are still making serious mistakes. Although repealing sentences comprises a relatively small percentage of the number of all persons convicted, the legal error conceals as a rule a violation, sometimes a very substantial violation of citizens' rights. This forces one to appraise every such instance as an extraordinary occurrence, requiring the appropriate reaction. According to figures of the USSR Ministry of Justice, last year nearly 700 judges were punished for various deviations from the law. This is not a few, it is even many—I would say very many. But the facts of life require in the course of restructuring that the necessary firmness and exactingness be displayed on this question, too.

We realize that elimination of judicial errors depends primarily on the quality of work and the personal qualities of the judges themselves.

But, at the same time, during the restructuring of judicial activities, it is essential, in our view, to resolve also several general questions. In particular, it seems to us to be necessary to reorganize the investigation apparatus, to make it independent and to establish genuine procuratorial supervision over the legality of its activities. The role of barristers in an investigation and in court should be drastically enhanced. The practice of taking into pretrial custody persons suspected of criminal offenses must be placed under strict control. The court must have the right, when there is justification for so doing, to declare any prescriptive document, irrespective of who issued it, to be against the law if it runs counter to the law or the Constitution. The place of confinement must become a place of reeducation rather than a place in which a punitive sentence is served at the state's expense.

In conclusion, I want to say that, as it goes forward to welcome the 19th all-union party conference, the Supreme Court will take a most active part in drafting proposals for the further restructuring of the work of the courts. We hope that, during the restructuring, additions will be inserted into the Law on the USSR Supreme Court. In our view, there is now an urgent need to extend its competence and to determine more precisely and fully the place and role of the Supreme Court both within the system of the law enforcement bodies and within the system of other state bodies. Bearing in mind the fundamental changes in the existing legislation that are now taking place, we shall study all the decisions that USSR Supreme Court plenum has previously taken, and, where necessary, we shall make appropriate additions and amendments.

A particular place in the plans for the work of the Supreme Court will be occupied by judicial and legal support for precise compliance with "Law on State Enterprises" which is, in our opinion, a "fundamental" law at the current stage of restructuring. New tasks for the courts emerge from the USSR "Law on the Cooperative System in the USSR" which has just been adopted. A very wide range of questions is assigned by that law to the competence of the courts. This obliges us to draw up, without delay, the necessary recommendations for the courts, so that the law is correctly applied immediately.

In connection with the coming into force of the USSR Law "On the procedure for contesting in court the illegal actions of officials who infringe the rights of citizens," , we shall, as early as this year, in conjunction with the USSR Ministry of Justice and the USSR Procuracy, study the practical ways in which that legislative act is applied. As previously, the judges of the Supreme Court will take an active part in drawing up draft legislative enactments, the need for which is dictated by the progress of the restructuring of all aspects of our way of life. In other words, the Supreme Court will take all the measures within its power so as to worthily carry out, during the restructuring that is taking place, the tasks assigned to it. (applause)

New Prosecutor General Named

LD2605144988 Moscow TASS in English 1439 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—The Supreme Soviet (parliament) of the USSR today appointed Aleksandr Sukharev to the post of prosecutor-general. He replaced at this post Aleksandr Rekunkov who retired for health reasons.

Sukharev was born in 1923. A professional lawyer, he served as minister of justice of the Russian Federation and lately as first deputy prosecutor-general of the USSR.

Sukharev is chairman of the Association of Soviet Jurists.

Session Ends

LD2605153988 Moscow Tass in English 1522 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—The Supreme Soviet (parliament) of the USSR ended its three-day session in Moscow today.

The session adopted a law on cooperatives which grants the cooperative sector of the economy equal rights with the state sector.

The law, to enter into force on July 1, 1988, has endorsed juridical and economic independence of cooperative societies, including the right to enter foreign markets and set up joint ventures with foreign companies.

The deputies discussed progress in implementing the country's housing programme which envisions that every Soviet family should have a separate well-appointed flat or a house by the year 2000.

It was noted that five million flats had been built in the first two years of the programme (1986-1987), or 100,000 more than planned.

The session outlined measures to help speed up the pace of home building.

For the first time in Soviet parliamentary practice, the session heard a report by the USSR Supreme Court. Deputies welcomed that fact, assessing it as an example of broader democracy.

Speakers observed that the Supreme Judiciary authorities were actively facilitating the consolidation of socialist legality and protection of rights of the Soviet citizens in the conditions of perestroyka, or restructuring.

This should remain the principal direction in the Supreme Court's work, the session pointed out.

The Supreme Soviet appointed Aleksandr Sukharev new prosecutor-general of the USSR, who served as first deputy to the previous prosecutor-general, Aleksandr Rekunkov, who retired for health reasons.

The decrees of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet adopted in the period since the previous session were approved.

Shcherbitskiy Speaks in Kiev on Restructuring

AU2705060188 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 15 May 88 pp 1-3

[RATAU report on the 13 May meeting held by V.V. Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary, with his voters in Bagleyskiy constituency, Dnepropetrovsk Oblast: "Along the Line of Restructuring and Accelerating"]

[Excerpts] Overcoming natural difficulties and, occasionally, artificial barriers, the plans put forward by the party for accelerating the country's socioeconomic development are already in effect and are gathering momentum. This can also be appreciated by the example of Dneprodzerzhinsk, a large industrial center in the Dnepr Region. In support of restructuring, the city's metallurgists, chemists, and all labor collectives have actively joined in accomplishing its key tasks: to radically reform the economy, and to democratize all spheres of life. Basic party organizations and labor collectives are now examining prospective delegates to the all-union party conference. Preference has been given to ardent supporters of restructuring and active Communists.

A frank and businesslike discussion on what has already been done in preparations for the party conference, on unsettled problems and outstanding tasks, on the progress made in restructuring the activity of party organizations, labor collectives, and local soviets took place at a meeting between Bagleyskiy constituency voters in Dnepropetrovsk Oblast and their deputy to the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet, V.V. Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary.

Yu.V. Mamuta, Bagleyskiy Raykom first secretary, opened the meeting.

V.V. Shcherbitkskiy was offered the floor for a speech.

Meetings like this one, V.V. Shcherbitskiy noted, are always useful. But they are particularly necessary now when the party and the entire country are actively preparing for a highly important political event, the 19th all-union party conference.

Following the Central Committee April (1985) plenum and the 27th CPSU Congress, profound changes have been taking place and crucial tasks for restructuring have been accomplished in all spheres of Soviet society. The main political result of the last 3 years lies in the fact that our society has firmly embarked upon the path of renewal and radical changes. The working people's social activity has increased everywhere, and their aspiration to participate directly in political life is growing. In the economy, the situation is gradually changing for the better. A great deal has been done to settle social problems: Major resources have been found for housing construction, for the development of health services and public education. The accomplishment of the tasks set under the Food Program is speeding up.

This gives us the right to say that the line traced by the 27th party congress both for domestic and for foreign policy is correct. The way we have begun to restructure sociopolitical life and the spiritual sphere, and to reform the economy has been pretty good on the whole, although this still cannot be said about some some sectors, both large and small. This can be explained by the fact that many of us are still unable to get out of the well-worn rut, have not changed our attitudes and work style, have not learned to think in economic terms, to accomplish new, complex tasks in a businesslike way, and to be constantly enterprising and persistent in achieving the targets set. This is why a number of good, cardinally important decisions are being implemented slowly or incompletely. It has also become obvious that restructuring is a complex and lengthy process. For this reason the CPSU Central Committee found it necessary to convene the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference to thoroughly examine the progress made in restructuring, to give it a powerful new impulse, and—point two—to determine measures for the further democratization of life in the party and society.

At the recent meeting with leaders of the mass media, ideological institutions, and creative unions, held in the CPSU Central Committee M.S. Gorbachev emphasized that the forthcoming party conference was called upon to provide political, ideological, and organizational conditions to guarantee not only the irreversibility of the restructuring and democratization processes, but also to decisively contribute toward developing and deepening them.

Allow me, V.V. Shcherbitskiy then said, as deputy to the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet for your constituency, to tell you about the situation in the republic, and about the work carried out to pursue the line traced by the party.

In the Ukraine, like all over the country, restructuring has spread wide and encompassed all spheres of people's lives. Guided by the CPSU Central Committee directives, the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee is orienting the efforts of party organizations toward providing ideological backup for restructuring, toward deepening democracy, implementing a radical economic reform, and accomplishing immediate social tasks. At the same time, we are endeavoring to ensure a political approach to the matter at hand and to consistently overcome the party committees' practice of substituting for administrative and economic organs, and to eliminate administrative methods of leadership.

Paramount attention has been devoted to providing real conditions everywhere for the participation of all working people in state and public affairs. A highly important condition for this lies in improving information for people. For this purpose, the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee has resolved to further intensify glasnost in party work. In this respect, emphasis has been laid on informing the population about how the decisions adopted are being implemented and, if they are not being implemented, about who is to blame and what measures have been adopted. This will first of all increase the responsibility of leading functionaries in implementing the decisions and the plans set.

A great deal has been done to develop democratic principles in cadre work. The practice of electing secretaries of basic party organizations; gorkom, raykom secretaries; rayispolkom chairmen, and economic leaders by secret ballot from among two or more candidates is becoming customary. In production, more than 800 enterprise directors and 45,000 shop chiefs, foremen, and team leaders have already been elected. This number includes 40 top leaders, and about 500 shop chiefs, foremen, and team leaders elected at Dneprodzerzhinsk city enterprises.

This attitude by far reduces the probability of errors in settling cadre questions, and allows persons who enjoy prestige among the people to be selected for responsible posts. It goes without saying that this is true when the election of a leader is not treated as a routine campaign, but with great responsibility, with respect for the opinion of the basic party organization and of the entire collective.

An important place in expanding democracy is taken by the labor collective councils as a new form of engaging the working people in production management. More than 6,000 of them have been set up in the republic. In your city, councils are operating at more than 60 percent of enterprises and organizations. It is essential that, with their activity, the labor collective councils contribute toward accomplishing statewide tasks, primarily those set to meet the national economic needs for manufactured goods and to radically improve the quality of production, and that they attend to social development problems.

The political role and responsibility of the republic's soviets of people's deputies are growing markedly, while the activity of trade unions, the Komsomol, and other public organizations has been invigorated. What matters most now is to persistently intensify the processes of democratization and increasingly engage the inexhaustible people's potential in accomplishing immediate tasks. After all, through our inability to free the people's initiative, creativity, and independence to the full extent and in time, we have lost and continue to lose a great deal.

This has to be said because the vital importance of mastering democratic work methods still has not been realized everywhere. This is the source of unreceptiveness to initiative, particularly from below. This assumes various shapes. Some people deliberately look for an excuse to snub an initiator and, so to say, to cut him down to size, while others simply brush him away or get rid of him with vague promises.

For example, many interesting and sensible remarks and suggestions were made by Dneprodzerzhinsk Communists and working people during the recent campaign of accountability reports rendered by elective party organs on leading restructuring. The purpose of many of them was to improve the work of transportation, consumer, and trade services, to ensure that the left-bank part of the city develops in a comprehensive manner. But the gorispolkom and the gorkom assumed a perfunctory attitude to them.

Thus, practically every second proposal and remark made has reportedly been complied with in the city, while in reality there are only a few noticeable changes for the better, and many acute problems continue to linger unresolved. This applies primarily to the implementation of radical economic reform. An analysis of the state of affairs in this important sector shows that, either progress in this respect is slow, or at times people simply mark time. What, then, are the main causes of this? First of all, it is to be admitted that in the city and in the republic as a whole both administrative and economic organs are timid in taking up new approaches and economic levers in production management. Many party committees are slow in restructuring, too. The search for new work methods is not sufficiently energetic and persistent, while the traditional forms of influence not only prove to be ineffective, but frequently also contradict the policy of increasing the independence and responsibility of labor collectives and their leaders. It is also to be pointed out that a radical breakthrough is being hampered, either by complacency in partial improvements in a number of sectors, or simply by the inability of some functionaries to bring the initiated undertaking to an end.

As a result of these and other shortcomings, there have been large shortfalls by the metallurgists of the Dzerzhinskiy combine, the chemists of the "Azot" association, and the railcar builders. The delivery plan fell short by nearly 52,000 tonnes of ready-rolled stock, 186,000 tonnes of mineral fertilizers, and 1,027 trunkline cars. Compared with the corresponding period of 1986, the volumes of production and the rates of increasing labor productivity declined at the Bagley boiler engineering plant, the Dneprodzerzhinsk power and heat plant, the garment factory, and the city industrial combine. In industry, the plan for profits was fulfilled only 75.8 percent. State capital investments were utilized a mere 86 percent.

The further development of the economy and the social sphere was seriously hindered by the fact that the base of the building industry base virtually did not grow, and that the number of projects built slowly and simultaneously was rising. This situation must not be tolerated any longer.

Enterprise leaders and the gorkom and gorispolkom must make additional efforts, must tighten control over the results of economic work, must help whoever needs help, and be really demanding with respect to others. Experience shows that wherever people set about business, figuratively speaking, with both hands, then results come quickly.

Analysis of work in industry, construction, and the agro-industrial complex shows that the republic's national economy has made fuller use of intensive factors, V.V. Shcherbitskiy pointed out. Since the beginning of the 5-year period, most economic indexes of importance have improved. Compared with 1985, production volumes have risen 1.4 times, and—what is important—labor productivity in industry, 1.5 times. Above-plan profits have exceeded R2 billion.

The coal industry has been working steadily. The state of affairs has improved (although not as quickly as necessary) in the ferrous metal industry, the machine building complex, and transport. Compared with the corresponding period of the last 5-year period, the utilization of capital investments has increased by one-third.

Changes for the better have also taken place in the agro-industrial complex. The output and procurements of grain, sunflower seeds, vegetables, potatoes, and all kinds of stockbreeding produce have risen, and this has allowed somewhat improved food supplies to the population.

In this way, we have managed, to some extent, to curb the adverse trends in the national economy of the republic as a whole. The work of enterprises and organizations that have switched over to full economic accountability and self-financing is exerting an ever growing influence on the pace and qualitative indexes of economic development. Nearly 2,500 associations and enterprises are already working under the new conditions. Their share in the overall volume of industrial production amounts to nearly 60 percent.

It is characteristic that, in this group of enterprises, in the 1st quarter the increase in production volume (6 percent) and in labor productivity (7.6 percent) exceeded not only the planned targets, but was also larger than that in the republic's industry as a whole (5.6 and 6.4 percent correspondingly). Labor productivity outpaced average monthly wages 1.4 times. The proportion of high-quality goods amounted to 26 percent, against the 16.6 percent in the republic's national economy as a whole. The share of machines, equipment, and instruments corresponding to world technical standards has reached 28.5 percent of total production, thus exceeding the 5-year targets.

At the same time, the incipient positive changes still have not made a determinative impact on radical improvements in the economy everywhere. Having analyzed the organizational and political work carried out in Lvov and Rovno Oblasts, and the state of affairs in other oblasts, the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee noted that the changes for the better were more palpable wherever party committees and basic organizations had taken the emerging new economic situation under their control and had been able to arouse initiative and innovation among people, and to boost their interest in and responsibility for the results of collective and individual work.

At the same time, many party committees have not managed to overcome the difficulties of the transitional period. They have frequently failed to assume an active position in overcoming the inertness of economic leaders.

These shortcomings are also evident in the work of Dneprodzerzhinsk city party organizations. Thus, a number of enterprises have failed to prepare in advance for switching over to full economic accountability and self-financing. The efforts to reduce losses in production and to cut the number of unprofitable enterprises have been inadequate. Insufficient pains have been taken to find and utilize reserves to step up the production of consumer goods and to ensure that commodity circulation and the cash plan are fulfilled. This brings about difficulties in monetary circulation and, at individual enterprises, even delays in wage payment.

Similar shortcomings also exist in other cities of the republic. In this respect, some economic leaders and even party committees are quite often engaged in accomplishing their local tasks, request all kinds of allowances and additional resources, and at the same time do not meet targets for saving resources.

The situation in fulfilling contracted deliveries is particularly worrying for us, V.V. Shcherbitskiy emphasized. Notwithstanding the fulfillment level's increase to 99.2 percent, in the 4 months of the current year alone the targets for goods deliveries to consumers fell short by R338 million. Everyone should realize clearly that failure to deliver goods in time has a grave impact on the entire production chain and, under conditions of reform, is financially detrimental to both the culprits and the subcontractors. For this reason all collectives should consider fulfillment of the supply plans to be their first absolute law.

Unfortunately, the situation also proves to be frequently affected by an imbalance between the volume of production and the material-technical provision, and by the chronic malady of production that does not keep an even pace.

As we can see, the existing shortcomings have various causes. But out of the whole range of them, particular attention has to be paid to the fact that the human factor still has not been made fully operative. We still have not managed to reach the point at which all working people everywhere properly see the very essence of economic reform and master its methods; and without this it is impossible to apply internal economic production accountability and contracting forms of labor organization. With this in mind, every branch and every labor collective should work out and systematically implement a long-term program for cadre training and refreshing.

As is known, one of the tasks of restructuring consists in improving the quality of products. It is simply unrealistic to accomplish this task without having fundamentally improved technology. The only way to do this is to engage engineers, technicians, and all working people widely and enterprisingly in this undertaking.

What is the present situation? In the republic's industry last year there were eight inventions and rationalizing proposals per 100 workers. In addition, poor use was made of many of them. Just for the sake of comparison let me say that the annual number of proposals per 100 workers in the GDR averages 50; in the United States, about 150; and in some Japanese firms, even more. To improve the undertaking, the widest circle of the working people must be engaged in technical creativity. Their activity has to be increasingly steered toward accomplishing the most responsible—both quantitative and qualitative—5-year tasks. It is within our power to cope with these tasks.

Evidence of this is also found in the results scored in the 4 months of the current year. The volume of the republic's industrial production rose 5 percent, and labor productivity, 5.7 percent. In March we achieved the highest average daily output, worth R474 million. If this level is preserved in the successive months, we will be able to meet the targets set for the output of industrial products in 1988 and the 3 years of the 5-year period. The 1st-quarter plans for utilizing capital investments, for construction and assembly work, and for putting fixed assets, houses, and sociocultural facilities into service were overfulfilled. But the tasks facing our builders are not easy.

In most oblasts, including Dnepropetrovsk Oblast, the situation in the fields is better than last year. This applies to both winter crops and spring ear crops, along with vegetables and fruit. Particular attention must now be paid to corn. Corn fields have to be tended well to obtain at least 10-12 million tonnes of grain, because it would be very difficult or even impossible to obtain an overall grain yield of 51 million tonnes without this. In a word, the tasks ahead are not simple, but we can and should cope with them. We have worked out well-considered and concrete plans for all sectors. We must see to it that they are fulfilled everywhere. Already now, we must think not only about the fulfillment, but also about the overfulfillment of the 12th 5-Year Plan. In this respect, it is highly important to work out the 1989 and 1990 plans thoroughly and in detail.

The new management conditions, the expanded commissions, and the increased responsibility of local organs, V.V. Shcherbitskiy continued, have facilitated and accelerated the accomplishment of social tasks. Compared with the plans drawn up early in the current 5-year period, the volumes of state capital investments for these purposes in the republic have risen by more than one-fourth, or by R3.6 billion. In the past 2 years, the increase in wages, payments, and allowances from communal consumption funds exceeded the indexes of the 5-year plan.

Housing construction is expanding. The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee has approved a comprehensive special-purpose program; "Housing-2000." Similar programs have been worked out in all regions, ministries, and departments, and at most enterprises and organizations. A great deal has already been done. In the 3 years of the 5-year period, the plan for putting housing into service will be exceeded by 10 million square meters. This will bring house warming parties forward for nearly 250,000 families (or approximately 1 million people).

In this respect, there are also changes for the better in Dneprodzerzhinsk. Since the beginning of the 5-year period, 4,367 apartments (more than 248,000 square meters) have been built. Here I would like to say a kind word about members of cooperative societies who have built three houses. Many thanks also to those who helped them.

A great deal has been done in the city to also put into service other facilities in the social sphere. Two large general education schools, four children's centers have been built, a new motion picture theater, the "Mir," has opened in the left-bank district, and a number of stores. A bridge across the Dnepr is under construction. In this way, the comprehensive plan for city development is being implemented.

However, the settling of a number of vitally important questions lacks consistency, persistence, and concreteness. Take, for example, a problem as acute as that of housing. Even when the plans are fulfilled, the pace of its growth is faster than that of settling it. We are not fully confident that the inhabitants of Dneprodzerzhinsk will cope with this task. It is sufficient to say that the waiting list is growing by an average of 900 persons annually. At the same time, the city has failed to utilize more than R1.5 million allocated since the beginning of the 5-year period for housing construction. In addition, the rates planned for housing construction are, frankly speaking, low. For this reason it is only fair to ask the city leaders: Comrades, how do you intend to accomplish the task set by the party congress and to provide every family with an apartment or an individual house by the year 2000?

Particular efforts should be made primarily to raise the capacities of building organizations. Ways must be found to assist these organizations, especially with mechanisms and manpower. By the way, many things can be made at city enterprises. Neither is it possible to manage without construction by direct labor methods. Alas, this business is poorly attended to by the leaders of the "Azot" production association, of the Bagleya and the Dneprodzerzhinsk coke and chemical plants. Individual housing construction is developing slowly. Apparently, for the gorkom, the gorispolkom which Comrade I.I. Brazhnik leads, and labor collective leaders the time has come to get down to all these problems, as they say, in earnest.

Equally topical are the tasks to improve the ecological situation in the city. In recent times, a great deal has been done in this field. But at the same time, funds allocated in the last 5-year period and since the beginning of the current one have not been fully utilized. There are many shortcomings in tree and garden planting in the left-bank part of the city and on the territory of a number of enterprises. What matters most is the insufficient application of low-waste and waste-free technologies.

The attitude to the protection of the environment assumed by law enforcement organs, the city people's control committee, and the state inspection committee, is frequently incomprehensible or, more exactly, unprincipled. There is too little persistence in the way these problems are being posed before leaders of the appropriate ministries. More vigor is also needed in developing in this sphere of cooperation between the city's industrial enterprises and the institutes of the republic's Academy of Sciences, all the more so since you have gained good experience here in this respect. Those called upon to spearhead the protection of nature are, of course, the soviets of people's deputies.

In connection with ecological problems, V.V. Shcherbitskiy briefed the audience on the state of affairs at the Chernobyl AES. Both at the station and in the 30-km zone, the situation has significantly improved and is continuing to improve. This applies to background radiation, and to the concentration of radionuclides in the soil, water, and air. There are no disturbing changes in people's health conditions. As is known, after an appropriate inspections, three power generating blocks have been put into operation. An intensive search is in progress for ways to utilize farmlands in the evacuated zone.

A new city for the AES personnel, Slavutich, is being built with the participation of the fraternal union republics. Some 2,430 apartments have already been built. Classes have begun in a school, there are kindergartens, a hospital, a drug store, stores, a dining room, and consumer services in operation. The construction of the city, with a population of 30,000, will be completed next year.

Worth mentioning are also the food supplies to the population, V.V. Shcherbitskiy pointed out. The republic's population is normally provided with most foodstuffs (bread, flour, groats, macaroni, confectionery, fats, milk, sour milk products, and eggs). As far as sugar is concerned, as is known, it has been rationed.

Why was this? First of all, it was the increased demand—one can even say, a run on sugar. What was the matter? After all, with the scientifically substantiated norm of 38 kg, the republic's per-capita sugar consumption last year averaged 50 kg, or 4 kg more than in 1986. And overall sugar sales rose in a year by 160,000 tonnes. Sugar stocks for the current year are at the 1987 level. The main cause of the stoppages that occurred and of the rationing was moonshine distilling. Of course, the militia alone cannot cope with this evil. What is needed here are the joint efforts of the entire society. Then the coupons will be superfluous, too.

The situation with meat and animal fat remains complex. Because of the drought, farms in the republic's steppe zone last year gathered far less grain and fodder, delivered a large number of underweight animals, the numerical increase dropped sharply, and this brought about a decline in the number of animals and in meat stocks. Although the plans for meat purchases in the republic were fulfilled, their volumes, compared with 1987, decreased by 16,000 tonnes, or 0.9 percent, including 7 percent in Dnepropetrovsk Oblast. As a result, the market stocks in the republic diminished by 2.6 percent, and in your oblast by 6 percent.

At most kolkhozes and sovkhozes the present fodder situation is at most kolkhozes and sovkhozes better than last year. And farms are fattening animals intensively to replenish meat stocks. Calculations made by specialists show that the situation should improve.

Let me touch now upon meat products. In the republic as a whole, meat procurements have risen 9 percent, and in Dnepropetrovsk Oblast, a mere 0.5 percent. This is why the butter situation is not improving. Daily per-cow milk yields in the oblast are now increasing. This allows us to hope that supplies of milk products will also improve.

V.V. Shcherbitskiy recalled that the measures to increase the republic's market stocks of meat, milk, vegetables, and fruit were discussed in detail at the last plenum of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee. It is also essential to emphasize the need to substantially improve the trade in potatoes, vegetables, and fruit. An improvement is feasible. But in storage capacities and equipment, the city's vegetable and fruit bases have dropped far behind their equivalents in such towns as Krivoy Rog, Zheltyye Vody, and Ordzhonikidze. In addition, many bases and stores simply lack elementary order.

To buy sour milk products, mineral water or even bread sometimes proves to be a problem, in this city, particularly in the evening. The organizational level of cooperative trade is low, and the measures taken to expand it have been insufficient. The Gorispolkom, and primarily Comrade Ye.I. Yurchenko, its deputy chairman, must resolutely restructure their work, and must ensure that the officials directly responsible for the city's supplies are held accountable as appropriate.

Attention was then called to some questions concerning mass cultural work and the organization of leisure, mainly, but not only, for young people. In the current 5-year period, the funds require for strengthening the material and technical base of culture have been allocated, but they are not being adequately used. Even the existing cultural potential in the city is being utilized poorly: nearly 20 palaces of culture and clubs are in practice operating at a half their capacity.

Many sports facilities, particularly in places where people live, are, to put it mildly, in a deplorable state. There are very few mass events organized there, particularly on festive days and workfree days. This is the direct fault of persons responsible for this sector of work.

Consequently, what we need everywhere is more efficiency, more concreteness, responsibility, and mainly more efficiency. V.V. Shcherbitskiy pointed out that in the last 2 days he himself, as well as V.A. Ivashko, obkom first secretary, and A.I. Priymak, Dneprodzerzhinsk Gorkom first secretary, happened to see a number of distressing shortcomings, and to listen to quite a few justified reproaches. The conclusion drawn from all that was: Leading cadres at all levels must constantly keep in touch with labor collectives, must react more sharply to shortcomings, and must eliminate them more quickly.

V.V. Shcherbitskiy then briefly described the present international situation. Restructuring has encompassed both domestic life and the sphere of foreign policy, he emphasized. In this respect, a great deal has recently been done, but even more remains to be done.

In search for a solution for immediate international problems, the CPSU Central Committee and the country's government have adopted a number of principled decisions based on bold new approaches. In this respect, we did not restrict ourselves to the mere proclamation of a theoretical doctrine, but formulated a political platform for an all-encompassing system of international security. In practice, these ideas have been transformed into a package of concrete measures put forward by the Soviet side, including unilateral measures.

It is to be admitted that we have taken a new look at the world around us and at at our country's place in it. The new political thinking has been embodied in our proposals to make the world nuclear-free, nonviolent, more humane, and civilized. We are in favor of an honest and open policy, for mutual respect, for well balanced interests and equal security for all states.

This consistent constructive policy has been received with satisfaction by the people of the Ukraine and by all Soviet people. This policy is producing appreciable positive results. Support for the Soviet initiatives on the planet is growing stronger, at the same time as confidence in our country [is growing]. A highly responsible attitude to mankind's vital problems has also been adopted by our friends and allies. The new political thinking is increasingly materializing in the concrete acts being accomplished by progressive, peace-loving forces.

This has to be dealt with even by those who at present still have not abandoned the intention to gain military superiority over us, to win commanding positions in international affairs and the world economy. They can see that foreign political initiative is firmly in the hands of the Soviet Union. This precisely helped pave the road to Soviet-American summit meetings in Geneva, Reykjavik, and then in Washington, to the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles.

As a result of this, nuclear disarmament has begun to turn from being a utopia into reality, into practice. The next in line is the fourth summit meeting between the leaders of the two states, a summit that is now to be held in Moscow. Of course, the Soviet side will do its utmost to mark the summit with concrete results, to finally turn relations between the USSR and the United States into a positive factor in the international process.

The new political thinking has also distinctly manifested itself in the Geneva accords on Afghanistan. These accords will undoubtedly improve our country's foreign political positions and will mark a significant step toward an improvement in the international situation.

In short, positive changes in the world situation are obvious. But it is still too early to speak about a radical improvement. Militarist circles of the West are working out various plans for the so-called "compensation" and "modernization" of weapons. The American intentions to deploy weapons in space are particularly dangerous. And all this is being done not least to deter our socioeconomic development. Reactionary imperialist circles are well aware of the importance of restructuring in Soviet society, of the revived attractiveness of socialism combined with the foiled myth of a "Soviet military threat." Notwithstanding all the complexities and difficulties, the process of restructuring international relations has already begun.

In conclusion, V.V. Shcherbitskiy said: Thus, both domestic and foreign political factors demand that our work be further and more deeply restructured in all sectors, and that the country's socioeconomic development be accelerated. To give a worthy welcome to the all-union party conference, the attention and efforts of party, administrative, and economic organs, of every communist and laborer, should now be focused on accomplishing precisely these tasks. [passage omitted]

Shcherbitskiy answered voters' questions.

From 11 to 14 May, V.V. Shcherbitskiy was in Kirovograd and Dnepropetrovsk Oblasts. He visited a number of industrial enterprises, farms, and sociocultural facilities. During his meetings and conversations with the oblast's laborers and party and economic leaders, he spoke in detail about the implementation of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress on the restructuring accomplished in every sphere of public life, the performance of labor collectives under the conditions of economic accountability, self-financing, and self-recouping, and the development of democratic forms of management.

While in Kirovograd, the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary visited the main plant of the "Red Star" association. This enterprise, specializing in the production of general-purpose and combined aggregates for seeding various crops, accounts for one of every two Soviet-made sowing machines. V.V. Shcherbitskiy saw sowing machines that are in production and the new models that are being prepared for production. He inspected the plant's shops and sectors, and familiarized himself with production. V.N. Gutnik, general director of the association; N.K. Sklyanichenko, party committee secretary; grinding machine operator V.P. Ambrosimov and turner V.I. Galios, both plant veterans; A.A. Starovotenko, young milling machine operator; and V.V. Vovkozha, chairman of the labor collective council in the assembly shop, said that the collective was trying to play an active role in restructuring, apply economic management methods, and make extensive use of democratic principles in its work. The association has developed socialist competitions in honor of the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference. In these competitions, 75 teams have accomplished the tasks set for the 3 years.

However, there are quite a few problems, as well. Farmers rightfully complain about the poor design of many sowing machines and their poor productivity. The 4-month plan for selling products—including contracted supplies—was 98.5 percent fulfilled. This should have happened in the responsible period of preparations for, and during the time of, the spring sowing. At meetings with leaders, specialists, and workers, measures were discussed to hasten the reconstruction of the enterprise, to step up the production of the necessary equipment, and to produce new improved sowing machines as soon as possible. It was pointed out that with this in mind, the collective had to make fuller use of existing reserves to increase production efficiency, primarily by intensifying the policy of economizing, and to more widely apply advanced forms of organizing work and payment.

In a conversation with plastic founders N.M. Lyashok, L.N. Makarchuk, N.I. Yakimakha, Ye.S. Barkar, L.V. Kravchenko, and other laborers, the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary asked about their working conditions, and the organization of their catering and consumer services. He inspected the plant's convalescent center, which gives preventive treatment to 2,000 laborers a year.

V.V. Shcherbitskiy toured the city, saw the ongoing projects there, inquired about the scope of housing construction, the organization of medical and trade services, and spoke to residents of the oblast center. The attention of the oblast's party, administrative, and economic leaders was drawn to the need to hasten the development of the social sphere, better provide the people with goods, primarily meat and milk products, as well as vegetables, and took careful note of the people's needs and demands.

The Lenin kolkhoz in Znamenskiy Rayon, chaired by Hero of Socialist Labor V.M. Gurtovoy, ranks among the oblast's most advanced. It makes highly productive use of all farmlands, and judiciously combines farming with stockbreeding, gardening, and pond fish breeding. In particular, the level of profitability of hog breeding at the kolkhoz amounts to 37-40 percent. In the first quarter of the current year, the kolkhoz produced 6,073 quintals of meat against the planned 5,710 quintals. The farm has made wide use of leasing contracts. Social problems are also being settled consistently.

V.V. Shcherbitskiy inspected fields of wheat and perennial grass, the kolkhoz orchard, the village housing system, the children's combine, and spoke to farm leaders and kolkhoz peasants. He made a number of remarks concerning the further development of agro-industrial production, the increased efficiency of farming, the intensification of stockbreeding, and emphasized the importance of housing construction for the villagers.

In Kirovograd Obkom, a conference was held with the oblast's party, administrative, and economic leaders. It was pointed out that there must be a more resolute restructuring of the work of party organizations, democracy must be deepened in all spheres of public life, and the Kirovograd Oblast communists and all working people must be invigorated in their efforts to accomplish the tasks set for socioeconomic development.

While in Dnepropetrovsk Oblast, the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary visited the Verkhnedneprovsk ore mining and metallurgical combine, which has been operating under the new management conditions since January 1988. Its collective has steadily coped with the plan and contracted deliveries. During this time, the enterprise's profits totaled just under R4.5 million. A significant part of the profits is being invested in production reequipment. At the combine's enriching factory, V.V. Shcherbitskiy familiarized himself with the progress made in modernization, which has a beneficial impact on the work of the enterprise. The factory has applied modern magnetic separators and computing equipment. Technological processes will soon be controlled by an automatic system. Automation has cut the number of personnel by nearly 67 percent.

At the same time, the combine has had troubles as a result of a lag in capital construction. Two open-cut mines have come close to exhaustion, but contractors—the "Dneprometallurgstroy" and the "Glavdneprostroy"—have been building a new one, but only very slowly. After all, the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers have qualified the efforts to expand the capacities of the Verkhnedneprovsk combine as a topical task.

V.V. Shcherbitskiy met leaders and specialists of the enterprise and of the building organizations. P.P. Posunko, acting chief of the "Dneprometallurgstroy" trust, and A.N. Galchenko, chief of "Glavdneprostroy," briefed him on measures taken to speed up the construction. The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary emphasized that the combine's products were needed by many enterprises in the country. It is essential to coordinate the efforts of metallurgists and builders, boost discipline, and increase the responsibility of all—leaders, specialists, and laborers. The enterprise's party and trade union committees, as well as the raykom and the obkom, are expected to speed up their steps, settle problems more energetically, be more enterprising and insistent, and ensure that projects are put into operation on schedule.

Ways to develop the construction industry and implement the program for industrial construction were also discussed in detail during visits paid to the F.E. Dzerzhinskiy metallurgical combine in Dnepropetrovsk, the "Azot" production association in Dneprodzerzhinsk, and the coke and chemical plant in Bagleya. The conversations touched on problems concerning the application of waste-free technologies, the raising of production efficiency, environmental protection, efforts to compensate for arrears that labor collectives had permitted to occur in supplying consumers with products, primarily fertilizers, and improvements in production quality.

V.V. Shcherbitskiy inspected a new residential district on the left bank of the Dnepr in Dneprodzerzhinsk, and the construction site of a new footbridge that will connect the left bank of the Dnepr with the old part of the city. During conversations with metallurgists, chemists, and builders, he inquired about the construction of houses, schools, and children's establishments, and about the organization of public catering, trade, and consumer services. He also touched on local problems, the measures that must be taken to settle these problems, the need to resolutely eradicate unwholesome phenomena, especially drunkenness and the distilling of moonshine, and the promotion of the role played by the broad masses in furthering a sound way of life.

The Ukrainian Communist Party Committee first secretary met members and candidate members of the Verkhnedneprovskiy Raykom, Dneprodzerzhinsk Gorkom, and Dnepropetrovsk Obkom bureaus. It was noted that the time of preparation for the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference was a highly responsible one in terms of the activity of party organizations. It is essential to take a close look at the way the decisions of the 27th Party Congress and successive CPSU Central Committee plenums are being implemented and restructuring accomplished in the field, and to see what must be done to give the action an additional impulse. It is imperative to firmly protect, advertise, and defend restructuring, as well as strive for real results in it. After all, people judge the prestige of the party, as well as the efficiency and acts of the local party committee, by the results. We must radically change the style and methods of organizational and ideological work, shift this work directly to labor collectives, and pay greater attention to the patriotic and internationalist education of the younger generation. It is necessary to promote glasnost, criticism, and self-criticism, to ensure that the adopted decisions are really complied with, and to eliminate paperwork and bureaucratism. The urgent demand is to give up the practice of substituting for administrative and economic bodies, and to persuade instead of order. Every party committee is expected to turn into an authentic organ of political leadership.

V.V. Shcherbitskiy was accompanied on his tour of Dnepropetrovsk Oblast by V.A. Ivashko, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and Dnepropetrovsk Obkom first secretary, and in Kirovograd Oblast by N.I. Samilyk, Kirovograd Obkom first secretary, and V.I. Zheliba, oblispolkom chairman.

Economic

Jan-Apr Industrial Performance Figures Reported

PM2605123188 Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 21, May 88 (Signed to Press 19 May 88) pp 13, 15

[USSR State Committee for Statistics report: "On Industry's Work in January-April 1988"—boldface as published] txt

[Text] In January-April this year, contract commitments for output deliveries in line with state orders and direct deliveries on the basis of contracts with consumers were fulfilled 99.3 percent, as against 98.3 percent in the corresponding period last year. Some 14 percent of associations and enterprises failed to cope with their contract commitments, and the shortfall in output deliveries to consumers amounted to R1.6 billion.

Compared with January-April last year, industrial output growth amounted to 4.5 percent, with an average daily growth of 4.7 percent.

Development of the production of consumer goods (Group "B") was faster than development of the production of means of production (Group "A").

The fulfillment of contract commitments, the profit plan, and rates of growth of the volume of output (works, services) by national economic **complexes, ministries, and departments** in January-April 1988 are as follows (in percentages) [Columns in the following table represent: Column A—Percentage fulfillment of contract commitments for output deliveries; Column B—Percentage of enterprises failing to fulfill contract commitments; Column C—Fulfillment of the profits plan (January-March); Column D—Actual growth rate of volume of output (works, services) in comparable prices]:

	A	B	C	D
Fuel and Energy Complex	99.7	21	106.9	3.3
USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification	98.3	34	101.4	0.3
(Footnote) (Figures in columns A and B exclude electricity producing enterprises)				
USSR Ministry of the Petroleum Industry	99.9	17	110.2	2.1
USSR Ministry of the Gas Industry	100	Nil	106.6	10.6
USSR Ministry of the Coal Industry	99.7	25	116.2	4.8
Metallurgy Complex	99.5	19	108.8	3.8
USSR Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy	99.3	23	111.2	4.6
USSR Ministry of Nonferrous Metallurgy	99.7	13	105.3	2.6
Machine Building Complex	99.0	39	103.1	6.6
USSR Ministry of Heavy and Transport Machine Building	98.5	62	104.0	7.9
USSR Ministry of the Electrical Equipment Industry	98.1	52	98.7	8.1
USSR Ministry of Chemical and Petroleum Machine Building	98.9	42	104.0	9.4
USSR Ministry of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry	99.2	31	99.0	4.0
USSR Ministry of Instrument Making, Automation Equipment, and Control Sys tems	98.8	27	104.2	8.9
USSR Ministry of the Automotive Industry	99.5	42	111.1	4.5
USSR Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building	99.3	34	96.9	5.1
USSR Ministry of Construction, Road, and Municipal Machine Building	99.4	56	108.2	11.3
Chemical Industry and Timber Complex	99.0	34	109.6	4.8
USSR Ministry of the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry	99.4	33	108.3	3.3
USSR Ministry of the Chemical Industry	98.4	39	110.7	7.9
USSR Ministry of the Production of Mineral Fertilizers	98.9	27	111.1	3.4
USSR Ministry of the Medical and Microbiological Industry	99.6	12	101.0	6.0
USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry	98.7	37	112.1	4.8
Agro-Industrial Complex	99.8	10	106.1	2.7
USSR Gosagroprom	99.8	10	106.5	3.0
USSR Ministry of the Fish Industry	99.8	9	105.9	3.9
USSR Ministry of Grain Products	99.8	4	105.7	0.9
Social Complex (USSR Ministry of Light Industry)	99.4	17	107.1	5.0
Construction Industry Complex (USSR Ministry of the (Construction Materials Industry)	99.2	19	109.7	5.3

Data on industry's work in January-April this year for **union republics** (including industry under union jurisdiction) is cited below (in percentages) [Columns in the following table represent: Column A—Percentage fulfillment of contract commitments; Column B—Percentage of enterprises failing to fulfill contract commitments;

Column C—Actual growth rate of volume of output (works, services) in comparable prices]:

	A	B	C
RSFSR	99.3	16	4.3
Ukrainian SSR	99.2	13	5.0
Belorussian SSR	99.96	3	6.4
Uzbek SSR	98.9	14	1.2
Kazakh SSR	99.5	9	4.8
Georgian SSR	99.2	10	3.7
Azerbaijan SSR	99.3	12	4.2
Lithuanian SSR	99.8	5	4.8
Moldavian SSR	99.5	16	4.5
Latvian SSR	99.5	10	6.3
Kirghiz SSR	99.2	16	9.2
Tajik SSR	99.2	20	7.5
Armenian SSR	98.9	17	5.3
Turkmen SSR	99.3	10	4.3
Estonian SSR	99.8	6	3.0

At industrial associations and enterprises where **state acceptance** has been introduced, 8 percent of output, totaling R1.2 billion, was rejected on first submission in April, and the output finally rejected in the period since the start of the year amounts to R27 million.

Data on the progress of fulfillment of state orders and the production of the most important types of output by national economic **complexes** are cited below:

Fuel and Energy Complex [subhead]

	Actual in Jan-Apr 1988	Percentage target	Jan-Apr 1988 as percentage fulfillment of Jan-Apr 1987
Electricity, billion kilowatt-hours	605	100.8	102
Oil (including gas condensate), million tonnes	208	101	102
Gas, billion cubic meters	260	103	107
Coal, million tonnes	268	104	103

The fuel and energy complex sectors worked steadily. A total of 18.5 million tonnes of standard fuel was produced in excess of the 4-month targets for primary fuel and energy resources.

At the same time, a number of associations and enterprises in the complex allowed a lag to build up. They include the "Purneftegaz," "Stavropolneftegaz," "Azneft," and "Sakhalinmorneftegaz" Production Associations under the USSR Ministry of the Petroleum Industry, the "Astrakhangazprom" Production Association under the USSR Ministry of the Gas Industry, and the "Tulaugol," "Sredazugol," and "Stakhanovugol" Production Associations under the USSR Ministry of the Coal Industry.

The shortfall in output deliveries by industrial enterprises in the complex as a whole amounted to R48 million, including a R23 million shortfall by the USSR Ministry of the Coal Industry.

Metallurgy Complex [subhead]

	Actual in Jan-Apr 1988	Percentage target	Jan-Apr 1988 as percentage fulfillment of Jan-Apr 1987
Steel, million tonnes	54.6	101	102
Rolled ferrous metal products (finished), million tonnes	38.6	101	103
Steel pipes, million tonnes	6.9	101	104
Iron ore, million tonnes	83.4	102	101

The metallurgy complex enterprises ensured the fulfillment of state orders for the basic types of ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy output.

As a result of the faster growth of the production of economical types of metal products, the national economy achieved savings of metal amounting to more than 1 million tonnes.

At the same time, a number of enterprises under the USSR Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy failed to cope with the fulfillment of state orders for the manufacture of finished rolled metal products. They include the Zlatoustovsk Metallurgical Plant (98 percent fulfillment of state orders), the Novosibirsk Metallurgical Plant (97 percent), the Kramatorsk Metallurgical Plant (98 percent), the Petrovskiy Metallurgical Plant in Dnepropetrovsk and the "Sibelektrostal" Metallurgical Plant (99 percent each), the "Dneprospetsstal" Electrometallurgy Plant (91 percent), the "Elektrostal" Electrometallurgy Plant (98 percent), and the Oskolskiy Electrometallurgy Combine (97 percent).

The production of economical and highly efficient types of metal products like cold-rolled sheet metal, cold-drawn steel sections, and high-strength pump and compressor pipes was less than envisaged by targets.

Machine Building Complex [subhead]

	Actual in Jan-Apr 1988	Percentage target	Jan-Apr 1988 as percentage fulfillment of Jan-Apr 1987
Turbine generators, million kilowatts	4.2	76	141
Large electric machines, thousands	8.4	93	99.1

Machine Building Complex [subhead]

	Actual in Jan-Apr 1988	Percentage target	Jan-Apr 1988 as percentage fulfillment of Jan-Apr 1987
Turbine generators, million kilowatts	4.2	76	141
Special, specialized, and aggregate metal-cutting machine tools, thousands	16.4	102	97
Metal cutting machine tools, with digital program control, thousands	7.2	106	102
Forging and pressing machines, with digital program control, items	635	117	123
Instruments, automation equipment, and spare parts, billion rubles	1.8	103	109
Medical equipment and spare parts, million rubles	316	106	110
Computer equipment and spare parts, billion rubles	2.0	107	115
Milling equipment, million rubles	77.1	97	118
Petroleum apparatus, million rubles	92.4	98	112
Chemical equipment and spare parts, million rubles	348	98	111
Tractors, million horsepower	17.9	98	100.8
Agricultural machines, billion rubles	1.4	100.2	101
Machines and equipment for stockraising and feed production, billion rubles	1.0	99.7	104
Excavators, thousands	14.2	99	106

Contract discipline improved somewhat in enterprises within the machine building complex. The output growth achieved in January-April was faster than the growth of the total volume of industrial output. Moreover, the increased output volume in the complex was secured with a certain cutback in the work force, which was reduced by 37,000, or 0.7 percent, during the 1st quarter, compared with the corresponding period last year.

Nevertheless, substantial shortcomings remain in the work of machine building ministries.

The complex' enterprises as a whole had a total shortfall of R325 million in deliveries of specific types of output to consumers under concluded contracts.

The USSR Ministry of the Electrical Equipment Industry failed to meet its targets for many types of output covered by state orders. The volume of shortfalls in output deliveries amounted to one-third of the complex's indebtedness.

The manufacture of special, specialized, and aggregate machine tools, processing centers, and flexible production modules by the USSR Ministry of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry in January-April was less than in the corresponding period last year.

Enterprises and associations under the USSR Ministry of Chemical and Petroleum Machine Building are lagging behind in meeting state order targets for chemical and oilfield equipment and other output.

Chemical Industry and Timber Complex [subhead]

	Actual in Jan-Apr 1988	Percentage target	Jan-Apr 1988 as percentage fulfillment of Jan-Apr 1987
Mineral fertilizers (in 100- percent nutrient equivalent), million tonnes	12.5	102	103
Chemical plant protection agents (in 100-percent active ingredient equivalent) thousand tonnes	114	102	99
Sulfuric acid, million tonnes	10.0	99	105
Caustic soda, million tonnes	1.1	98	103
Chemical fibers and yarns, thousand tonnes	529	103	103
Tires for trucks, millions	9.4	100.9	103
Tires for cars, millions	7.9	103	107
Tires for agricultural machines, millions	4.1	100.5	100.3
Medicines, billion rubles	1.2	101	105
Commercial timber, (excluding small timber procurements), million trimmed cubic meters	126	100.3	100.5
Paper, million tonnes	2.1	102	104
of which newsprint, billion square meters	12.4	103	104

Enterprises in the chemical industry and timber complex coped with their targets for the manufacture of basic types of petroleum products, bulk chemical industry products, lumber, hard woodfiber slabs, commercial pulp, and cardboard.

At the same time, there was a lag in the fulfillment of state orders for the manufacture of raw material products (synthetic ammonia, sulfuric acid, and calcinated and caustic soda), basic types of synthetic resins and plastics (polystyrene, PVC, polyethylene), and thermoplastic pipes and pipeline components. The lags for virtually all the aforementioned types of output increased in April.

Fulfillment of state orders for the manufacture of chipboard slabs fell short by 26,000 standard cubic meters.

Shortcomings in the work of a number of associations and enterprises affected the results of work. For example, during the 1st 4 months the Balakovo chemical plant under the USSR Ministry for the Production of Mineral Fertilizers failed to deliver 110,000 tonnes of sulfuric acid, which accounted for 83 percent of the ministry's total delivery shortfall. Targets for the manufacture of caustic soda are not being met, mainly as a result of lags at the following production associations under the USSR Ministry of the Chemical Industry: "Kaustik" in Volgograd, "Khlorvinil" in Kaluga, "Khimprom" in Sumgait, "Tadzhikkhimprom," and the Zima chemical plant.

Since the beginning of the year, enterprises under the USSR Ministry of the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry have failed to supply 2.3 million pairs of rubber footwear. Work was unsatisfactory at the Astrakhan and Tomsk rubber footwear plants and Leningrad's "Krasnyy Treugolnik" Production Association; production at the aforementioned enterprises was 1.8 million pairs below the January-April targets.

The complex' enterprises as a whole had a shortfall of R353 million in deliveries under concluded contracts. The largest shortfall was allowed to occur by the USSR Ministry of the Chemical Industry and the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry.

Newly commissioned capacities are being assimilated only with considerable delay by the complex' enterprises. Planned capacities at 22 of the 39 projects newly commissioned or reconstructed in 1987-1988 either were not fully utilized, or their assimilation took longer than envisaged by set normatives.

Industry Within the Construction Industry Complex [subhead]

	Actual in Jan-Apr 1988	Percentage target	Jan-Apr 1988 as percentage fulfillment of Jan-Apr 1987
Cement, million tonnes	46.0	100.6	103
Asbestos cement sheet (shingles), billion standard tiles	2.9	100.2	100.5
Asbestos cement pipes and sleeves, thousand km standard pipes	27.4	102	102
Soft roofing and insulation materials, million square meters	679	99.8	100.9
Window glass, million square meters	94.5	100	98

The 4-month targets for the manufacture of most types of construction materials were met. At the same time, the lag which was allowed to build up in the manufacture of soft roofing and insulation materials is not being successfully overcome. The work of the Uchaly (Bashkir ASSR) and Gardabani (Georgian SSR) cardboard-ruberoid plants and the "Uzbekkrovlya" Roofing Paper Combine still remains unsatisfactory. They have failed to deliver 14 million square meters of roofing materials since the start of the year.

The production of **consumer goods** is characterized by the following figures:

	Actual in Jan-Apr 1988	Percentage target	Jan-Apr 1988 as percentage fulfillment of Jan-Apr 1987
Foodstuffs			
Meat, including Category I subproducts (from state raw material resources), million tonnes	3.9	108	102
Sausage products, million tonnes	1.3	103	103
Butter (from state raw material resources), thousand tonnes	429	111	108
Wholemilk products, in milk equivalent (from state raw material resources), million tonnes	10.8	104	103
Full-fat cheese, thousand tonnes	267	105	105
Commodity edible fish products (including canned fish) million tonnes	2.1	110	102
Vegetable oil (from state raw material resources), million tonnes	1.1	102	108

	Actual in Jan-Apr 1988	Percentage target	Jan-Apr 1988 as percentage fulfillment of Jan-Apr 1987
Margarine products, thousand tonnes	578	101	103
Confectionery products, million tonnes	1.7	104	104
Canned food, billion standard cans	4.9	109	105
of which, fruit and vegetables	3.2	111	106
Light industry products			
Cotton fabrics, billion square meters	2.7	101	103
Linen, hemp, and jute fabrics, million square meters	335	100.7	101
Woolen fabrics, million square meters	244	100.5	103
Silk fabrics, million square meters	721	102	105
Knitted articles, millions	637	100.6	103
Hosiery, million pairs	714	102	104
Footwear, million pairs	285	100.7	100.8
of which children's	128	101	100.6
Nonfood consumer goods (excluding light industry goods)			
Television sets, millions	3.2	100.2	118
of which, color sets	1.8	102	143
Refrigerators and freezers, millions	2.1	100.8	106
Radio receivers, millions	2.6	95	99.6
Tape recorders, millions	1.8	96	121
Video recorders, thousands	20.2	102	221
Sewing machines, thousands	533	94	107
including "zigzag" type	337	102	107
Washing machines, millions	2.0	97	110
Vacuum cleaners, millions	1.6	99.3	109
Furniture, billion rubles	3.1	102	108
Motorcycles, thousands	337	99	107
Bicycles (excluding children's), millions	1.9	99.6	102
Automobiles, thousands	443	100.8	99.2
Clocks and watches, millions	24.4	102	106
Chinaware and earthenware, million rubles	352	102	106
High-grade (glass and crystal) tableware, million rubles	337	106	114
Wallpaper, million standard lengths	187	102	111
Disposable paper products, million rubles	272	104	112
Elements and batteries for electrical household articles, millions	329	102	107

Between January and April **consumer goods production** (excluding alcoholic drinks) amounted to over R110 billion (in retail prices). The production of these goods was R7 billion, or 7 percent, higher than for the corresponding period last year.

Compared with the corresponding period last year, the increase in production was as follows: 93,000 tonnes of meat, including Category I subproducts, 33,000 tonnes of butter, 43,000 tonnes of sausage products, and 0.3 million tonnes of wholemilk products.

The overall plans of associations and enterprises for the manufacture of nonfood goods in the current year have been fulfilled. But enterprises under a number of ministries lagged behind in meeting their targets for April and for the 1st 4 months. This applies in particular to the USSR Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy, the USSR Ministry of Heavy and Transport Machine Building, the USSR Ministry of Construction, Road, and Municipal Machine Building, and the USSR Ministry of Chemical and Petroleum Machine Building.

Manufacture fell below the targets set for associations and enterprises for radio receivers (by 137,000), tape recorders (by 73,000), vacuum cleaners (by 11,000), washing machines (by 63,000), and sewing machines (by 33,000). Industry failed to cope with its targets for the manufacture of goods for tourism and sports purposes, and plan fulfillment was not ensured during the 1st quarter of this year for 37 of the 94 categories of such articles which are subject to returns.

There are still numerous complaints about the poor quality of consumer durables. During the 1st quarter, consumers complained about 688,000 television sets, 165,000 radio receivers, 84,000 refrigerators, 83,000 washing machines, 295,000 tape recorders, 3,200 video recorders, and 34,000 vacuum cleaners.

Despite a certain improvement in the fulfillment of contract commitments within the USSR Ministry of Light Industry system, 17 percent of enterprises still failed to cope with commitments, and their shortfall in deliveries of output and goods to consumers amounted to R200 million. In the ministry as a whole, contract commitments were fulfilled 99.4 percent (against 98.4 percent during the corresponding period last year). Fulfillment of contract commitments was lower in enterprises under the jurisdiction of the ministries of light industry in the RSFSR (98.8 percent), Uzbekistan (98.9 percent), Georgia (98 percent), Azerbaijan (98.2 percent), and Kirghizia (99.1 percent). Many complaints are still being made about the quality of light industry articles. During the 1st quarter, 21 million meters of all types of textiles, 3.1 million pairs of footwear, and more than 1 million items of knitwear and sewn goods were either rejected or downgraded in quality.

Kashyrskiy Advocates Natural Gas Alternatives

PM2705115188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 May 88 First Edition p 2

[Article by Doctor of Technical Sciences V. Kashyrskiy, RSFSR honored figure of science and technology, under the rubric "Economic Department Mailbag": "'Written Off' Too Soon"]

[Text] Saratov—The trend toward the accelerated development of the USSR gas industry has been justly criticized recently. The priority given to the extraction of gas has made many leading workers disdainful of the inclusion of other local types of fuel in the fuel balance.

Saratov, Kuybyshev, and Orenburg Oblasts possess large stocks of oil shale running to tens of billions of tonnes. In Saratov Oblast, however, shale extraction ceased in 1957. In Kuybyshev Oblast, there is only one working mine. Approximately 80 percent of those oblasts' fuel needs are met by gas and fuel oil. Large deposits of oil shale have been prospected but are not being worked. One after another, thermal power stations are switching to natural gas. For example, the Saratov industrial network's power stations use gas piped from Central Asia, whereas it could use oil shale or its by-products extracted from local deposits....

In my view, gas extraction should be stabilized at the present level in the very near future, and the increased need for organic fuel should be satisfied largely by expanding the production and use of local types of fuel: oil shale, peat, and lignite.

Effective methods for turning local low-grade fuel with a high ash and sulfur content into environmentally clean energy sources have been developed at the Saratov Polytechnical Institute. Their use at thermal power stations would make it possible to reduce natural gas consumption. However, the scheme for the development and distribution of fuel extracting sectors through the year 2000 devised by the USSR Gosplan does not include the development of large oil shale deposits in the European USSR.

Technical Servicing Consortium Created

PM2605131788 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 24 May 88 p 1

[Report on interview with V. Yegorov, chairman of the "Tyazhpromeksport" All-Union Association, by "our correspondent" A. Valentinov: "Servicing Has One Master"; date and place of interview not given]

[Text] An agreement will be signed at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations today on the creation of a consortium of Soviet organizations for the technical servicing, repair, reconstruction, and modernization of converter production facilities at metallurgical plants constructed abroad with the Soviet Union's technical assistance. At the request of our correspondent A. Valentinov, V. Yegorov, chairman of the "Tyazhpromeksport" All-Union Association, describes the consortium's tasks.

It has long been a rule in international cooperation that the exporter guarantees technical servicing and the supply of spare parts. This is particularly important for metallurgical equipment, which is in need of constant maintenance. The cost of annual services and deliveries of spare parts on the world market is up to 10 percent of the cost of equipment. So far we have received far from the full sum.

In our country, there is virtually no servicing for complete sets of metallurgical equipment. While Western firms constantly monitor the operational state of the units they have delivered, obtaining a considerable profit for doing so, at best we carry out repairs in emergency situations and supply spare parts. It is not surprising that world demand for individual types of our metallurgical equipment has declined sharply recently.

The new consortium will be the sole master of the equipment exported with all rights and commitments. Its members are the metallurgical plants which are represented by the "Zarubezhchermet" All-Union Association and the machine builders represented by the "Zhdanovtyazhmash" Production Association and the planning institutes of the Ministry of Installation and Special Construction Work. The metallurgical establishment's entire production cycle is thus encompassed. This makes it possible to organize comprehensive servicing.

Agricultural

Nikonov Visits Yaroslavl Oblast Farms

LD2105120888 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 20 May 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpts] Viktor Petrovich Nikonov is in Yaroslavl Oblast. He visited the (Tuneshna) Sovkhoz, where members of the young Ivanov family have been working successfully on lease contracting since the start of this year. [passage omitted]

The role of science in boosting agriculture is great. In this connection, Comrade Nikonov, CPSU Central Committee secretary, inquired into the interaction between scientists and workers at the Yaroslavskoye scientific and production association, which includes the Institute of Animal Husbandry and Fodder Production, and three farms, including the (Mikhaylovskoye) stock farm. [passage omitted]

In the latter half of the day Viktor Petrovich Nikonov left for the heartland of Yaroslavl Oblast, and farms in Poshekhonskiy Rayon.

Criticizes Oblast

LD2205034088 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 21 May 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Viktor Petrovich Nikonov is in Yaroslavl Oblast.

[Correspondent Yu. Chernyak, identified by caption] Today Viktor Petrovich Nikonov took part in a meeting of the aktiv of the oblast party organization held in Yaroslavl. A principled, businesslike, and profound investigation was made into the reasons why the people of Yaroslavl have not yet achieved a radical turnaround in agricultural production. The countryside is very backward in the social sense, too. The level of farming is low; seedgrowing is run down; both lease and family contracting are still developing feebly. Intensive technology for the cultivation of agricultural crops is being introduced slowly.

[Begin Nikonov recording] The heads of the party organization are not demonstrating persistence in accomplishing those tasks which, in the long run and at the present stage, determined—or rather determine—the attitudes of our people toward the revolutionary transformations of socialist society that we call restructuring. Restructuring means doing everything for the person. It means satisfying all his spiritual and material needs. But the mistakes, the indifference toward the peasant, rural life, and toward its organization shown in Yaroslavl Oblast in a more negative way than in any other oblast in the republic or the country have led to... [changes thought] Well, just go down to the bazaar. Cabbage, brought to you from Leninabad, costs 80 kopecks. The oblast is in last place in the non-Chernozem Zone in terms of milk production. This is reflected in the life of the people, in their mood. Equal quantities of potatoes are now being brought in. All sorts of vegetables, too. Vegetables that are grown here locally. Why is this happening? It is happening because the level of critical thinking has turned out to be so excessively low... [end recording]

[Chernyak] The resolution passed at the meeting of the aktiv of the Yaroslavl Oblast party organization says that both Communists and all the people of Yaroslavl Oblast are required, not merely in words but in deeds, to take an active part in restructuring and to rapidly put things right in the oblast's agriculture. This year a noticeable step forward is planned in fulfilling the Food Program.

Paper Reports Jan-Apr Livestock Figures

PM2605133988 Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 21, May 88 (Signed to Press 19 May 88) p 15

[Unattributed "Statistical Summary": "Stockraising on Kolkhozes and Sovkhozes"]

[Text] The editorial office has received USSR State Committee for Statistics figures for the state of stockraising on kolkhozes and sovkhozes in January-April 1988. We offer these statistical data for our readers' information.

I. Production of Livestock Products

The country's kolkhozes and sovkhozes had the following results for the production of livestock products in January-April this year:

	Jan-Apr 1988	Jan-Apr 1988 as percentage of Jan-Apr 1987
Meat production (sale of livestock and poultry for slaughter, live weight), thousand tonnes	7,158	102
Gross milk yield thousand tonnes	24,804	105
Average milk yield per cow, kg	848	106
Eggs, millions	20,838	106
Average egg yield of laying hens, units	78	105

Meat production increased by 167,000 tonnes in comparison with the same period last year. Meat production increased on farms in many union republics, except the Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Moldavia, Latvia, Tajikistan, and Estonia. The greatest increase in meat production in the RSFSR was achieved by kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Murmansk, Bryansk, Smolensk, Kursk, Chita, Amur, and Magadan Oblasts and the Karelian, Chechen-Ingush, Bashkir, and Buryat ASSR's. Meat production declined on farms in Tambov, Astrakhan, Penza, Ulyanovsk, Rostov, and Chelyabinsk Oblasts, Krasnodar Kray, and the Tatar ASSR.

The gross milk yield in January-April 1988 was 1.2 million tonnes more than in January-April last year. An in crease in milk production was secured by stock unit workers in most union republics except Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia.

The greatest increase in milk production in the RSFSR was achieved by farms in Bryansk, Ivanovo, Orel, Ryazan, Tambov, and Tomsk Oblasts and the Kalmyk ASSR. Milk production declined on farms in Arkhangelsk, Vologda, Kuybyshev, Orenburg, Chelyabinsk, Tyumen, and Sakhalin Oblasts, the Udmurt and Tuva ASSR's, and the Maritime Kray.

Egg production on kolkhozes and sovkhozes in January-April 1988 increased by 1.1 billion compared with the same period last year. Growth was achieved on farms in all union republics, except Georgia.

II. Purchases of Livestock Products on All Categories of Farms

Types of Product	Purchased During Jan-Apr 1988	Percentage of Jan-Apr 1987
Livestock and poultry(live weight),thousand tonnes	7,466	103
Milk, thousand tonnes	21,680	106
Eggs, millions	19,949	105

The volume of livestock and poultry sales to the state in the country in the first 4 months of 1988 increased by 239,000 tonnes in comparison with the same period last year. Livestock and poultry sales declined on farms in Georgia, Estonia, the Ukraine, Moldavia, and Tajikistan. Livestock and poultry purchases in the RSFSR declined on farms in the Tatar ASSR, Krasnodar Kray, Astrakhan and Chelyabinsk Oblasts, the Tuva ASSR, and Orenburg and several other oblasts. Livestock and poultry purchases increased considerably in the Buryat and Bashkir ASSR's, Chita and Smolensk Oblasts, Komi ASSR, and Kursk, Kirov, and Bryansk Oblasts.

Purchases of milk and dairy products increased by 1,224,000 tonnes during the first 4 months of 1988. Farms in all union republics except Armenia and Tajikistan increased milk and dairy product sales. The greatest increase was achieved on farms in Orel, Ivanovo, Tambov, Tomsk, Murmansk, Ryazan, Gorkiy, and Bryansk Oblasts. Milk sales to the state in the RSFSR declined on farms in Arkhangelsk and Kuybyshev Oblasts, the Tuva ASSR, Vologda and Chelyabinsk Oblasts, the Maritime Kray, the Komi ASSR, Yaroslavl and Kirov Oblasts, and the Tatar ASSR.

Egg sales to the state in January-April 1988 increased by 973 million in comparison with the same period last year. Egg sales to the state increased on farms in all union republics except Latvia.

III. Production and Purchases of Livestock Products by Union Republic. January-April 1988 as Percentage of January-April 1988

	Production			Purchases		
	Meat	Milk	Eggs	Livestock	Milk	Eggs and Poultry
USSR	102	105	106	103	106	105
RSFSR	104	104	106	105	105	106
of which the non-Chernozem Zone	106	105	106	107	105	106
Ukrainian SSR	98	107	103	99.1	109	103
Belorussian SSR	106	109	103	107	112	102
Uzbek SSR	111	107	115	102	105	115
Kazakh SSR	108	102	103	111	103	103
Georgian SSR	107	97	99.9	93	100	100.8
Azerbaijan SSR	99.1	99.8	110	102	102	106
Lithuanian SSR	100.4	105	111	100.8	105	111
Moldavian SSR	96	110	105	99.1	111	102
Latvian SSR	99	104	100.2	100.4	104	99.9
Kirghiz SSR	101	102	115	108	102	111
Tajik SSR	98	102	114	99.1	99.99	117
Armenian SSR	102	99	101	104	99	102
Turkmen SSR	104	111	102	105	108	103
Estonian SSR	93	104	109	94	102	107

IV. Livestock Numbers

As at 1 May 1988, there were 97.9 million head of cattle on kolkhozes and sovkhozes—1.5 million less that at the same date last year. There were 28.9 million cows, and the pig population reached 57.7 million. Sheep and goats numbered 148.7 million (an increase of 2.2 million). The number of poultry was down by 4.5 million.

The livestock pasturing period, which is the most favorable for boosting the production of milk and meat, is beginning on kolkhoz and sovkhoz stock units. The correct course of action is taken by farms which draw up a precise plan for the utilization of feed crop fields, thus achieving high efficiency in fresh feed production.

Further Report on Weather, Crop Status

LD2605090788 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 24 May 88 p 3

[Report by agrometeorologist T. Rossinskaya: "Weather and the Crops"]

[Text] In the second 10-day period of May favorable conditions for sowing the spring crops, including warm-season crops, and for planting potatoes were observed over most of the country's European territory. The rain which fell for 1-2 days proved no serious obstacle to field work. In the Ukraine the winter rye has formed ears while in the North Caucasus the winter wheat and winter barley have formed ears. In South Armenia and Azerbaijan the grain has begun to swell on the winter crops. Stalk growth is observed on the remaining territory.

The shoots of the early spring grain crops have appeared south of the Leningrad-Vologda-Kirov-Izhevsk line. In the southern regions the leaf formation process is underway on the grain corn and sunflowers. The state of the crops is predominantly good. In South Belorussia and in the central and northern regions of the Ukraine the potato shoots have appeared, which is 10-12 days earlier than the annual average. In the South Ukraine, Rostov Oblast, Krasnodar Kray, and the Transcaucasian republics side shoots are forming on the potatoes and tomatoes and shoots and the first real leaf have appeared on the cucumbers.

The boundary for the apple orchards' blossoming passes along the Vilnius-Mogilev-Ryazan-Gorkiy-Izhevsk line, which is close to the annual average. In Moldavia, the Southern and Southwestern regions of the Ukraine, the South of the Central Chernozem region, the North Caucasus, and the lower Volga region the blossoming of the orchards has ended and the young fruit are beginning to grow on the plants. The ripening of the early types of cherry and sweet cherry has begun in places in the North Caucasus and Transcaucasus.

Over the 10 days the growth of the grass in the eastern half of the European territory and the northern oblasts was 3-9 cm and on the remaining territory 10-12 cm. In Krasnodar Kray alfalfa has grown to 10-25 cm after the first cuttings. In the central and southern oblasts of the Ukraine, the Northwest, Central, Volga-Vyatka, and Urals Regions and in the northern half of the Volga Region, ground frosts (up to -3°degrees and -6° in the north of the territory) could have harmed the corn and potato shoots, the warm season crop seedlings which have been planted out, the blossoming orchards, and berry bushes.

In the arable farming regions of Siberia and the northern oblasts of Kazakhstan the moderately mild weather combined with good stocks of productive moisture created favorable conditions for the growth of winter crops and perennial grass. The sowing of sunflowers continued.

In the Central Asian republics and South Kazakhstan the conditions for the growth and development of cotton were favorable. The development of the third leaf and in the Southern regions the fifth leaf was noted. In the second 5-day period cool weather became established. In the eastern foothill regions the torrential rain with hail in places caused partial damage to the crops and caused a soil crust to form and the crops have been submerged in individual regions of the Fergana valley. In the southern part of Turkmenistan the winter wheat and barley have reached the waxy ripeness stage. In Tajikistan and Uzbekistan they have flowered and formed ears while in Kirghizia and southern Kazakhstan their stalk growth continued.

Scientific

'Molniya-3' Communications Satellite Launched

LD2705080488 Moscow TASS in Engish 0801 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Moscow May 27 TASS—A Molniya-3 artificial earth satellite, the next in turn, was launched today in the USSR for the purpose of ensuring the exploitation of a long-distance telephone and telegraph radiocommunication system, transmitting USSR central television programs through the Orbita network, as well as for promoting international cooperation.

The satellite was put into orbit with a apogee of 40,716 km in the Northern Hemisphere and the perigee of 636 km in the Southern Hemisphere. The period of the revolution is 12 hours and 17 minutes, the inclination of the orbit is 62.5 degrees.

Communication sessions through the Molniya-3 satellite will be held in accordance with the program outlined.

'Mir' Cosmonauts' Conduct 'Medical Checkup'

LD2705114788 Moscow TASS in English 1102 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Moscow May 27 TASS—By a TASS correspondent at the Ground Control Center:

Cosmonauts Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov are completing their working week aboard the orbiting platform Mir today with a medical checkup.

It will include, among others, a study of their hearts' bioelectrical activity in a state of rest and of their vascular systems during a workout on a stationary bike.

In keeping with a program to study the natural resources of earth and its environment, the crew are also to take pictures of individual land tracts and parts of seas and oceans.

Besides, they are continuing astrophysics experiments using the international orbital observatory Roentgen. Since May 25, the spacemen have been conducting a three-day series of observations focusing on the X-ray Swan X-3 source.

Preparing for forthcoming joint work with a Soviet-Bulgarian visitor team, Titov and Manarov yesterday installed and test-ran equipment for studying the atmosphere and ionosphere of earth.

According to telemetry data and the cosmonauts' reports, the flight of the orbiting platform Mir is proceeding normally. Titov and Manarov are in good health and feeling well.

Military

Lizichev Addresses Northern Forces Meeting

PM2605125588 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 May 88 Second Edition p 2

[Colonel S. Ursov report: "At the Stage of Concrete Deeds"]

[Text] Topical problems of the work of political organs and primary party organizations in deepening the processes of restructuring have been discussed at a Northern Group of Forces party conference.

Army General A.D. Lizichev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate, took part in the work of and addressed the party conference.

The report by Lieutenant General I. Titov, Military Council member and Northern Group of Forces Political Directorate chief, and the speeches by Comrades I. Korbut, V. Stepanov, V. Golovchenko, and others described concrete measures to improve political and educational work, assert an atmosphere of glasnost and openness within party organizations, and increase their influence on combat readiness and the strengthening of military discipline.

The conference participants elected delegates to the 19th all-union party conference.

Colonel General B. Utkin took part in the conference's work.